

**ALL SAINTS PARISH CHURCH  
WELLINGBOROUGH**



**Festival of  
Nine Lessons And Carols**

**December 21<sup>st</sup> 2025  
6.00pm**

**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.

*Verse 1 treble solo*

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.

*Choir only*

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.

*Full congregation*

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.

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,  
When, like stars, His children crowned  
All in white, shall wait around.

*Cecil Frances Alexander (1818~1895)*

## Bidding Prayers & 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.**

**O come, O come, Emmanuel,**  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear.  
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free  
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;  
From depths of hell Thy people save,  
And give them victory over the grave.  
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Etc*

O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer  
Our spirits by Thine advent here;  
And drive away the shades of night  
And pierce the clouds and bring us light!  
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Etc*

O come, Thou Key of David, come,  
And open wide our heavenly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high,  
And close the path to misery.  
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Etc*

O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,  
Who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height  
In ancient times once gave the law  
In cloud, and majesty, and awe.  
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Etc*

*John Mason Neale (1818~1866)*

*First Lesson:* Adam and Eve rebel against God.  
**Genesis 3. Cllr Mishra (Mayor of Wellingborough)**

**Choir:** Still, still, still. *arr Sir Philip Ledger (1937~2012)*

*Second Lesson:* God's promise to Abraham  
**Genesis 22. Head Teacher of Park Junior School**

### **The holly and the ivy**

when they are both full grown,  
of all the trees that are in the wood  
the holly bears the crown.

*The rising of the sun  
and the running of the deer,  
the playing of the merry organ,  
sweet singing in the choir.*

The holly bears a blossom,  
white as the lily flower,  
and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ,  
to be our sweet Saviour. *Refrain*

The holly bears a berry,  
as red as any blood,  
and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ  
to do poor sinners good. *Refrain*

The holly bears a prickle,  
as sharp as any thorn,  
and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ  
on Christmas day in the morn. *Refrain*

The holly bears a bark,  
as bitter as any gall,  
and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ  
for to redeem us all. *Refrain*

The holly and the ivy,  
when they are both full grown,  
of all the trees that are in the wood  
The holly bears the crown. *Refrain*

*English Traditional Carol*

Third Lesson: Christ's birth is foretold

*Isaiah 9.* **Head of Wellingborough School**

**Choir:** Star Carol.

*Sir John Rutter (b 1945)*

Fourth Lesson: The Messiah will be born in Bethlehem.

*Micah 5.* **The Deputy Lord Lieutenant**

**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.  
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 wondering love  
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.

*Phillips Brookes (1835~1893)*

Fifth Lesson:      The Annunciation of Mary  
                          *St Luke 1. Member of All Saints Church*

**Junior Choir:** Gaudete.

*Traditional 16<sup>th</sup> cent carol*

Sixth Lesson: The birth of Jesus

*St Luke 2. Member of Northamptonshire Police*

**It came upon a midnight clear,**

That glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth  
to touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, goodwill to men,  
From heaven's all-gracious King."  
The world in solemn stillness lay,  
To hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come,  
With peaceful wings unfurled,  
And still their heavenly music floats  
O'er all the weary world;  
Above its sad and lowly plains,  
They bend on hov'ring wing,  
And ever o'er its Babel sounds  
The blessed angels sing.

Yet with the woes of sin and strife  
The world has suffered long;  
Beneath the angel-strain have rolled  
Two thousand years of wrong;  
And man, at war with man, hears not  
The love-song which they bring;  
O hush the noise, ye men of strife,  
And hear the angels sing!

For lo! the days are hastening on,  
By prophet bards foretold:  
When, with the ever-circling years  
Comes round the age of gold:  
When peace shall over all the earth

Its ancient splendours fling,  
And the whole world give back the song  
Which now the angels sing.

*Edmund Hamilton Sears (1810~1876)*

Seventh Lesson. The shepherds go to the manger

*St Luke 2. MP for Wellingborough*

**Choir:** My Lord has come. *Will Todd (b 1970)*

Eighth Lesson: The wise men are led by a star

*St Matthew 2. Head Teacher of All Saints School*

**We three kings of Orient are;**

Bearing gifts we traverse afar  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain  
Following yonder star:  
*O Star of wonder, star of night,  
Star with royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading, still proceeding  
Guide us to thy Perfect Light.*

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,  
Gold I bring to crown Him again-  
King forever, ceasing never  
Over us all to reign:  
*O Star of wonder, etc (all)*

*Solo*

Frankincense to offer have I:  
Incense owns a Deity nigh:  
Prayer and praising, all men raising,  
Worship Him, God most high  
*O Star of wonder, etc (all)*

*Solo*

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume  
Breathes of life of gathering gloom;

*Solo*

Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,  
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb:  
*O Star of wonder, etc. (all)*

Glorious now behold Him arise,  
King, and God, and Sacrifice!  
Heaven sings alleluia,  
Alleluya the earth replies:  
*O Star of wonder, etc. (all)*

*Edward John Hopkins (1818~1901)*

***Please remain standing for the Ninth Lesson***

St John speaks of the mystery of the Incarnation.

***St John 1. The Vicar of All Saints & All Hallows***

***Please sit***

**Choir:** A child is born in Bethlehem

*Malcolm Archer (b 1952)*

**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 etc*

Sing choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,  
Sing all ye citizens of heav'n above;  
Glory to God in the highest.  
*O come etc*

*Latin, 18th century*

## Closing Prayers & Blessing

### **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 th’ 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 th’ incarnate Deity,  
pleased as man with man to dwell,

Jesus, our Emmanuel.

*Hark! the herald etc*

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 etc.*

*Charles Wesley (1707~1788)*

**Organ Voluntary.**

In dulce Jubilo

*Friedrich Zachau (1663-1712)*

Please do stay for mulled wine and mince pies.  
You are warmly invited to our Christmas services,  
details below.

**The Christmas Services are:**

**All Saints Church, Midland Road**

**Christmas Eve: 6.00pm: Nativity Service for all the family**

**Christmas Day: 9.15am: Family Communion with Carols**

**All Hallows Church on the Market Place**

**Christmas Eve: 11.30pm: Traditional Midnight Mass & Carols**

**Christmas Day: 10.00am: Family Communion with Carols**

**All Hallows Church on the Market Place**

**Sunday after Christmas: 10.00am: Joint Service of Holy**

**Holy Communion with Community Carol Singing**



**The Vicar and Churchwardens wish you all a very  
Peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year**

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