

A warm welcome to our worship this morning. Whether a regular or a visitor, we are delighted to have you with us, and hope that you will enjoy the service.

All you need to follow the service is contained in this leaflet. For a large print, ask the person who gave you this leaflet. Please join in the responses in bold.

After the service refreshments are served at the back of church, please join us.

We don't take cash collection during the service, however we welcome donations towards our mission and ever increasing maintenance costs. These can be left in the collection plate or be made using our contactless card machine at the back of the church. Alternatively you can scan the QR code on the last page.

The service starts with the procession of the ministers and the choir.

Hymn

- 1 O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;
bow down before him, his glory proclaim;
with gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness,
kneel and adore him: the Lord is his name.
- 2 Low at his feet lay thy burden of carefulness:
high on his heart he will bear it for thee,
comfort thy sorrows, and answer thy prayerfulness,
guiding thy steps as may best for thee be.
- 3 Fear not to enter his courts in the slenderness
of the poor wealth thou wouldest reckon as thine:
truth in its beauty, and love in its tenderness,
these are the offerings to lay on his shrine.
- 4 These, though we bring them in trembling and fearfulness,
he will accept for the name that is dear;
mornings of joy give for evenings of tearfulness,
trust for our trembling and hope for our fear.

The hymn pauses. The procession stops at the crib, the president blesses and sprinkles it with holy water. The hymn continues.

5 O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;
bow down before him, his glory proclaim;
with gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness,
kneel and adore him: the Lord is his name.

John Samuel Bewley Monsell (1811-1875)

Greeting

Minister In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All Amen.

Minister Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe.

All From the rising of the sun to its setting
your name is proclaimed in all the world.

Minister The Lord of glory be with you.

All The Lord bless you.

Words of welcome may be said.

Prayer of Preparation

All Almighty God, to whom
all hearts are open, all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Confession

Deacon 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.

Minister God be gracious to us and bless us,
and make your face shine upon us:
Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

Minister May your ways be known on the earth,
your saving power among the nations:

Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

Minister You, Lord, have made known your salvation,
and reveal your justice in the sight of the nations:
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Absolution

Minister Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
who in his great mercy
has promised forgiveness of sins to all those
who with heartfelt repentance and true faith turn to him:
have mercy on you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and bring you to everlasting life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Gloria

All/choir Glory to God in the highest, peace to his people on earth. *[x2]*
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

Glory to God in the highest, peace to his people on earth. *[x2]*

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, have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive, receive our prayer.

Glory to God in the highest, peace to his people on earth. *[x2]*

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. *[x2]*

Collect

Minister Grateful for the glory revealed today through God made flesh,
let us pray.

The Collect is said by a member of our congregation.

Creator of the heavens,
who led the Magi by a star to worship the Christ-child:
guide and sustain us,
that we may find our journey's end in Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

First reading Isaiah 60.1-6

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Second reading Ephesians 3.1-12

I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles - for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn

- 1 Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,
dawn on our darkness, and lend us thine aid;
star of the east, the horizon adorning,
guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.
- 2 Cold on his cradle the dew-drops are shining;
low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;
angels adore him in slumber reclining,
Maker and Monarch and Saviour of all.
- 3 Say, shall we yield him, in costly devotion,
odours of Edom, and offerings divine,
gems of the mountain, and pearls of the ocean,
myrrh from the forest, or gold from the mine?
- 4 Vainly we offer each ample oblation,
vainly with gifts would his favour secure:
richer by far is the heart's adoration,
dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.
- 5 Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,
dawn on our darkness, and lend us thine aid;
star of the east, the horizon adorning,
guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

Reginald Heber (1783-1826)

Gospel reading Matthew 2.1-12

All/choir Alleluia.

Cantor Christ was revealed in flesh, proclaimed among the nations,
and believed in throughout the world.

All/choir Alleluia.

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

All Glory to you, O Lord.

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.'

When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.'

When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

After the Sermon silence may be kept.

Creed

Minister Let us declare our faith in God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

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

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.

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.

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.

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

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.

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.

Prayers of intercession

Minister Today the wise men knelt before our Saviour.

Let us also kneel to worship him with great joy,
and to make our prayer to his heavenly Father.

This response may be included:

Lord, in your mercy,

All hear our prayer.

And at the end:

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

Silence is kept.

Peace

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

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
All **And also with you.**

Deacon Let us share with one another a sign of peace.

Hymn

1	Jesus Christ the Lord is born all the bells are ringing! Angels greet the holy One and shepherds hear them singing [x2].	4	Soon shall come the wise men three, rousing Herod's anger; mothers' hearts shall broken be and Mary's son in danger [x2].
2	'Go to Bethlehem today, find your king and saviour: glory be to God on high, to earth his peace and favour [x2],	5	Death from life and life from death our salvation's story: let all living things give breath to Christmas songs of glory [x2]!
3	Held within a cattle stall, loved by love maternal, see the master of us all, our Lord of lords eternal [x2].		

*Michael Perry (1942-1996)
based on *Puer nobis nascitur*, (Latin, 15th century)
Translation: © Mrs B. Perry / The Jubilate Group.
Administered by The Jubilate Group.*

Presentation of Gifts

At the offering of gold:

Minister Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe:
 to you be praise and glory for ever.
 As gold in the furnace is tried
 and purified seven times in fire
 so purify our hearts and minds

that we may be a royal priesthood
acceptable in the service of your kingdom.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

At the offering of incense:

Minister Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe:
to you be praise and glory for ever.
As our prayer rises up before you as incense,
so may we be presented before you
with penitent hearts and uplifted hands
to offer ourselves in your priestly service.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

At the offering of myrrh:

Minister Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe:
to you be praise and glory for ever.
As you give medicine to heal our sickness
and the leaves of the tree of life
for the healing of the nations,
so anoint us with your healing power
that we may be the first-fruits of your new creation.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

Table prayer

Minister Lord, accept your people's gifts,
not gold, frankincense or myrrh,
but hearts and voices raised in praise
of Jesus Christ, our light and our salvation.

All **Amen.**

Eucharistic prayer

Minister The Lord is here.

All **His spirit is with us.**

Minister Lift up your hearts.

All **We lift them to the Lord.**

Minister Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Minister 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 say our joyful hymn of praise:

All/choir **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power, God of might,**
heav'n and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord,
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Minister We praise and bless you, loving Father,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit,
that broken bread and wine outpoured
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he praised you.

He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:

Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:

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.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice
made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection
until he comes in glory.

Deacon Great is the mystery of faith.

All/choir **Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Minister Lord of all life,
help us to work together for that day
when your kingdom comes
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,
gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with [*N and*] all the saints
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,
for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Minister Believing the promises of God, as our Saviour taught us, so we pray.

All **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.

Breaking of the bread

The president breaks the consecrated bread.

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

All God here among us, light in the midst of us,
bring us to light and life.

All/choir Jesus, Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us [x2].

Jesus, bread of life, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us [x2].

Jesus, Prince of Peace, you take away the sins of the world:
grant us your peace [x4].

Giving of Communion

Minister Christ is the true bread
which has come down from heaven.

All Lord, give us this bread always.

Please wait to be directed forward to receive communion.

Hymn

- 1 In the bleak mid-winter frosty winds may moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone.
Snow had fallen snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak mid-winter long ago.
- 2 Our God, Heav'n cannot hold him, or earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign.
In the bleak mid-winter 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 manger full of hay,

Enough for him, whom angels fall down before,
The ox and ass and camel which adore.

4 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 can I give him? Give my heart.

Motet F. A. G. Ouseley: From the rising of the sun

From the rising of the sun unto the going down of the same
my name shall be great, among the Gentiles;
and in ev'ry place incense shall be offer'd up unto my name:
for my name shall be great among the heathen,
thus saith the Lord!

Prayer after Communion

Minister Lord God, the bright splendour whom the nations seek:
may we who with the wise men have been drawn by your light
discern the glory of your presence in your Son,
the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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.

Notices

Hymn

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 all 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.

Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

Blessing

Minister May God the Father,
who led the wise men by the shining of a star
to find the Christ, the Light from light,
lead you in your pilgrimage to find the Lord.

All Amen.

Minister May God,
who has delivered us from the dominion of darkness,
give us a place with the saints in light
in the kingdom of his beloved Son.

All Amen.

Minister May the light of the glorious gospel of Christ
shine in your hearts
and fill your lives with his joy and peace.

All Amen.

Minister And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

Dismissal

Deacon We have seen his glory, the glory revealed to all the nations.
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All In the name of Christ. Amen.

The people and ministers depart.

Organ voluntary Colin Mawsby: Unto us is born a Son

Our prayers are asked for

Those who suffer in body, mind or spirit, among them Carol, Kay G, Diana Brown, Jo Thraves, Glennis Eades, Rita Hawkes, William, Steve Cavender, Anne.

The housebound and those in residential homes: Shirley Cockerill, Susan Poolman, Jenny Attewell, Margaret Eady, Susan Adams, Richard Hole.

To add a name to our prayer list, please obtain the consent of the person you wish us to pray for. Then please email Pat Thomas (pat_@hotmail.co.uk).

Remember the departed

Those whose anniversaries fell on this past week: Mabel Howell, Alice Coombes, Frank Linnell, Michael Jenner Wrenn, Dorothy Linnell, Margaret Wittingham, Donald Partridge, Phyllis Lambert, John Holloway, Alan Biggs, Glynnis Bourne, Annie Cox, Charles Fair, Angela McHugh, John Benbow, Walter Armstrong, Winifred Dickenson, Frank Toseland, Edward Greig, Gladys Foden, Agnes Cope, Cicely Wilson, Mena Foster, Sylvia Pettit, Chris Christison, Dorothy Charles, John Harwood.

Notices

Morning Prayer new schedule: every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9:00, *via Zoom only*. We will revise the schedule again in Spring.

Bible Studies on St Mark's Gospel continue:

Tuesday 6 January 14:00, All Hallows Hall;
and Monday 12 January 19:30, All Saints' Lady Chapel.

Epiphany Carol Service Sunday 11 January 18:00, All Hallows.

Informal Celtic Eucharist Saturday 17 January 9:30, All Saints.

Weekend Pilgrimage to Walsingham 23-25 October 2026. If interested, please contact Canon John. Deposits to be paid now.

Mon 5 Jan

9:00-9:30	Zoom	Morning Prayer
9:15-11:00	All Hallows' Hall	Little Acorns pre-school group
18:00-19:15	St Mary's Hall	4th Cubs
18:15-19:30	All Hallows' Hall	Brownies & Rainbows
19:30-21:00	St Mary's Hall	4th Scouts

Tues 6 Jan

9:00-9:30	Zoom	Morning Prayer
9:30-12:00	All Hallows Hall	coffee shop
10:00-10:30	All Saints	Said Eucharist
14:00-15:00	All Hallows' Hall	Bible study

Wed 7 Jan

9:00-10:00	All Saints	school worship
9:00-9:30	Zoom	Morning Prayer
9:30-12:00	All Hallows' Hall	coffee shop
10:30-13:00	All Hallows	open to the public
12:15-13:00	All Hallows	Holy Communion
19:00-20:30	All Hallows	Bell ringing
19:00-20:30	All Hallows' Hall	Guides

Thurs 8 Jan

9:00-9:30	Zoom	Morning Prayer
10:00-12:00	All Saints	open to the public
18:15-19:30	St Mary's Hall	4 th Beavers

Fri 9 Jan

9:30-12:00	All Hallows' Hall	coffee shop
18:30-19:45	All Hallows	junior choir practice
19:30-21:00	All Hallows	adult choir practice

Sat 10 Jan

9:30-12:30	All Hallows' Hall	coffee shop
9:30-10:30	Dale End	4 th Squirrels
10:30-12:30	All Hallows	open to the public

Sun 11 Jan **Baptism of Christ**

9:15-10:15	All Saints	Sung Eucharist
11:15-12:15	All Hallows	Sung Eucharist
18:00-19:00	All Hallows	Epiphany Carol Service
19:30-21:30	All Hallows' Hall	Pegasus Explorers

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