

We thank you for carols old and new, for familiar and much-loved words of Scripture, for all that speaks of your coming among us in Christ. You have given us so much: **receive our praise.**

We thank you for reunions with family and friends, for the spirit of giving and receiving, for the mood of goodwill and celebration. You have given us so much: **receive our praise.**

We thank you for all the good things we will enjoy good food, good company, good fun. You have given us so much, **receive our praise.**

Loving God, help us in all of this to keep sight of the heart of Christmas, what it all really means- to celebrate the birth of the infant Christ, to worship him as joyfully and reverently as shepherds and wise men long ago, to welcome and follow him as faithfully as those who left everything to be his disciples. You have given us so much: **receive our praise.**

Loving God, forgive us if we have lost sight of what this season truly means. Forgive us if we have become over-familiar with its simple yet wonderful message. Forgive us if we have failed to make room for Christ in our Christmas celebrations. You have given us so much: **receive our praise.**

Speak to us now through all that we shall do and share, all we shall sing and hear, so that our lives may be touched by the wonder of his presence, you have given us so much, **receive our praise through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

CAROL

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
Chorus
Sing choirs of angels
Sing in exaltation
Sing all you citizens of heaven above
Glory to God in the highest!
Chorus

BLESSING

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, rest upon us and remain with us always. **Amen.**

Wishing you a Happy Christmas

The work at St Julian's & St James is made possible, under God, solely by individuals' giving, for which we are most grateful. If you would like to contribute you can do so in the collection plate, through regular Gift Aid donations, enabling us to reclaim the tax or by credit or debit card online via our website: <http://www.stjsgroup.church/givefoxcote>. Gift Aid mandates are available from our Stewardship Secretary: Jane Street Tel: 01761 300451 Email: jane_street@me.com



The Parish of Foxcote with Shoscombe

CAROLS AND READINGS BY CANDLELIGHT

4.30pm - Christmas Eve 2017

WELCOME

CAROL

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.

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 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.

4 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.

READING The Promise of a Saviour

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The maiden will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. Isaiah 7:4

Film - Immanuel, God with us

CAROL

ALL 1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear:

Refrain:
*Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

MEN 2 O come, true branch of Jesse, free
thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save,
and give them victory o'er the grave: *Refrain*

ALL 3 O come, thou Day-spring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight: *Refrain*

WOMEN 4 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: *Refrain*

ALL 5 O come, O come thou Lord of might,
who to thy tribes, on Sinai's height,
in ancient times didst give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe: *Refrain*

READING Mary & the Angel Gabriel

In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a maiden pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The maiden's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you." You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end." Luke 1:26-28, 31-33

READING Jesus is born

Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Luke 2:11-12

CAROL

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus lay 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 Thee Lord Jesus, look down from the sky
and stay by my side till morning is nigh

Be near me Lord Jesus I ask thee to stay
close by me forever and love me I pray
bless all the dear children in thy tender care
And take us to heaven to live with thee there

READING The Shepherds and the Angels

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great company of Angels appeared praising God and saying 'Glory to God in the highest' Luke 2:8-14

Film - Thou who wast rich beyond all splendour

CAROL

1. The first Nowell the Angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay
in fields where they, lay keeping their sheep
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

*Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,
Born is the King of Israel*

2. They looked up and saw a star
shining in the East, beyond them far
and to the earth it gave great light
and so it continued both day and night

READING The Shepherds go to Bethlehem

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. Luke 2:15-16

ACTION CAROL (sung to the tune 'Here we go round the mulberry bush')

Shepherds go down to Bethlehem	Shepherds find Jesus in Bethlehem
Bethlehem, Bethlehem	Bethlehem, Bethlehem
Shepherds go down to Bethlehem	Shepherds find Jesus in Bethlehem
On Christmas Day in the morning	On Christmas Day in the morning
Jesus was born in Bethlehem	Worship the baby in Bethlehem
Bethlehem, Bethlehem	Bethlehem, Bethlehem
Jesus was born in Bethlehem	Worship the baby in Bethlehem
On Christmas Day in the morning	On Christmas Day in the morning

READING The Wise Men & the Star

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him." When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh. Matthew 2:1-2,10-11

CAROL

ALL We three kings of Orient are,
bearing gifts we travel afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star:

ALL O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to the perfect light.

WOMEN Born a King
on Bethlehem plain,
gold I bring to crown Him again:
King for ever, ceasing never,
over us all to reign. *Chorus*

ALL Frankincense for Jesus have I,
God on earth yet Priest on high;
prayer and praising all men raising:
worship is earth's reply. *Chorus*

MEN Myrrh is mine: its bitter perfume
tells of His death and Calvary's gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in a stone-cold tomb. *Chorus*

ALL Glorious now, behold him arise,
King and God, and sacrifice!
heaven sings alleluia,
alleluia the earth replies: *Chorus*.

Prayers of Intercession

Loving God, we thank you for this season of Christmas - for all it has meant to so many over the years, all it continues to mean to us, and all it will mean in generations to come. You have given us so much: **receive our praise.**