

# St Mark's Church

## Carols by Candlelight 2015



After the welcome, the service will proceed unannounced.

### Welcome

#### \*\*\* Carol 1 \*\*\*

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:

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:

**Opening Prayer** (*All sit, said together*)

**Lord Jesus Christ,  
Child of Bethlehem and Son of God:  
help us this night to join our songs of glory  
to those of the heavenly host,  
that the joy of the church on earth  
may be heard in the praise of heaven, Amen.**

#### First Lesson

Genesis 3:8-15, 17, 19

*(All readings will proceed unannounced  
and without congregational responses)*

#### \*\*\* Carol 2 \*\*\*

See, amid the winter's snow,  
born for us on earth below,  
see, the tender Lamb appears,  
promised from eternal years!  
*Hail, thou ever blessèd morn!  
Hail, redemption's happy dawn!  
Sing through all Jerusalem:  
Christ is born in Bethlehem!*

Lo, within a manger lies  
he who built the starry skies,  
he who, throned in height sublime,  
sits amid the cherubim.

Say, ye holy shepherds, say,  
what your joyful news to-day;  
wherefore have ye left your sheep  
on the lonely mountain steep?

'As we watched at dead of night,  
lo, we saw a wondrous light;  
angels, singing "peace on earth",  
told us of the Saviour's birth.'

Sacred Infant, all divine,  
what a tender love was thine,  
thus to come from highest bliss  
down to such a world as this!

#### Second Lesson

Genesis 22:5-18

#### \*\*\* Carol 3 \*\*\*

Silent night, holy night,  
all is calm, all is bright,  
round yon virgin mother and child;  
holy infant, so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night.  
Shepherds quake at the sight,  
glories stream from heaven afar,  
heav'nly hosts sing 'alleluia:  
Christ, the Saviour is born'.

Silent night, holy night.  
Son of God, love's pure light,  
radiant beams from thy holy face,  
with the dawn of redeeming grace:  
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

**Third Lesson**  
Isaiah 9:2,6-7

**\*\*\* Carol 4 \*\*\***

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 bedside till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay  
close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,  
and fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.

**Fourth Lesson**  
Micah 5:2-4

**\*\*\* Carol 5 \*\*\***

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 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.

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;  
where like stars his children crowned  
all in white shall wait around.

**Fifth Lesson**  
Matthew 1:18-23

**\*\*\* Carol 6 \*\*\***

Angels, from the realms of glory,  
wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
ye who sang creation's story,  
now proclaim Messiah's birth:

*Come and worship,  
worship Christ the King.  
Come and worship,  
worship Christ, the new-born King.*

Shepherds in the field abiding,  
watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with man is now residing,  
yonder shines the infant Light: *Refrain*

Sages, leave your contemplations;  
brighter visions beam afar;  
seek the great Desire of nations;  
ye have seen his natal star: *Refrain*

Saints before the altar bending,  
watching long in hope and fear,  
suddenly the Lord, descending,  
In his temple shall appear: *Refrain*

Though an infant now we view him,  
he shall fill his Father's throne,  
gather all the nations to him;  
every knee shall then bow down: *Refrain*

**Sixth Lesson**  
Luke 2:1-7

**\*\*\* Carol 7 \*\*\***

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 street 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 in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
Our Lord Emmanuel!

**Seventh Lesson**  
Luke 2:8-20

**\*\*\* Carol 8 \*\*\***

The first Nowell the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds  
in fields as they lay:  
In fields where they lay  
a-keeping their sheep  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep:

*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
born is the King of Israel.*

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:

And by the light of that same star,  
three wise men came from country far;  
to seek for a king was their intent,  
and to follow the star wherever it went:

This star drew nigh to the north-west,  
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,  
and there it did both stop and stay  
right over the place where Jesus lay.

Then entered in those wise men three,  
full reverently upon their knee,  
and offered there in his presence  
their gold and myrrh and frankincense:

Then let us all with one accord  
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,  
that hath made heaven  
and earth of nought,  
and with his blood mankind hath bought:

**Eighth Lesson**  
Matthew 2:1-12

**Band Piece**

**Address**

**Ninth Lesson**  
John 1:1-14

**Prayers**

*Followed by the 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**

**Offering**

*If you are a tax payer please use Gift Aid envelopes to enable us to reclaim tax, at no cost to you. They can be found on the backs of chairs around the church, or obtained from the welcome table at the door*

*All stand as the Offering is brought forward. We say together:*

**God our Father,  
we give thanks for your gift of Jesus.  
Accept the gifts we offer  
our money and also our lives.  
In Jesus name. Amen.**

**\*\*\* Carol 9 \*\*\***

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:

See how the shepherds,  
summoned to his cradle,  
leaving their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;  
we too will thither  
bend our joyful footsteps:

Lo, star-led chieftains,  
magi, Christ adoring,  
offer him incense, gold and myrrh;  
we to the Christ-child  
bring our hearts oblations:

Sing, choirs of angels,  
sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above:  
'Glory to God  
in the highest':

**The Blessing**

May he who by his Incarnation  
gathered into one  
things earthly and heavenly,  
grant you the fullness of inward peace  
and goodwill;  
and the blessing of God Almighty,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
be amongst you  
and remain with you always. **Amen.**



**Our thanks to Bedford Town Band  
and our organist Mr Clive Simmonds  
Please do come and join us for our church services at 9.30am  
every Sunday, Sunday School and crèche provided.**