

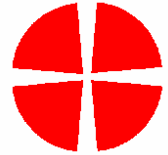


Church of
England

St Mark's Church

Carols by Candlelight

2007



Methodist
Church

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 men to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel:

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 Lamb of God 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, you holy shepherds, say,
What your joyful news today;
Wherefore have you 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 a 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: 15-18



Carol 3 ***

Silent night, holy night:
Sleeps the world, hid from sight,
Mary and Joseph in stable bare
Watch o'er the child belovèd and fair
Sleeping in heavenly rest.

Silent night, holy night:
Shepherds first saw the light,
Heard resounding clear and long,
Far and near, the angel-song:
'Christ the Redeemer is here!'

Silent night, holy night:
Son of God, O how bright
Love is smiling from thy face!
Strikes for us now the hour of grace,
Saviour, since thou art born!

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 side until 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 all the 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 Immanuel!

Seventh Lesson

Luke 2:8-20

***** Carol 8 *****

- 1 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.*

- 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:
- 3 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:
- 4 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.
- 5 Then entered in those wise men three,
Full reverently upon their knee,
And offered there in his presence
Their gold and myrrh and frankincense:
- 6 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

Sermon

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.*

True God of true God,
Light of Light eternal,
Lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb;
Son of the Father,
Begotten, not created:
(refrain)

See how the shepherds,
Summoned to his cradle,
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;
We too will thither
Bend our joyful footsteps:
(refrain)

Lo, star-led chieftains,
Magi, Christ adoring,
Offer him incense, gold and myrrh;
We to the Christ-child
Bring our hearts oblations:
(refrain)

Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above:
'Glory to God
In the highest':
(refrain)

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.**

Christmas Services

At St Mark's Church

Christmas Eve

3.00pm Crib Service for Children & Carers
11.30pm Midnight Holy Communion

Christmas Day

9.30am Family Worship

At Putnoe Heights Church

Christmas Eve

4.00pm Crib Service for Children & Carers
11.30pm Midnight Holy Communion

Christmas Day

11.00am Family Worship