



Where all find a welcome and are nurtured in their journey with Christ.

# Advent Carol Service

Sunday 7 December 2025, 6.00 pm



# Welcome to St Mary's

## Support our work

St Mary's is a charity which receives no funding from the government and is entirely dependent on donations and fees to keep its doors open, continue its work in the community, and maintain its buildings and outdoor spaces.

If you would like to donate to support us you can give during the service as giving plates are passed around. Alternatively, you can place your offering on the plate by the door as you leave or tap your contactless card or device, or give online by card or directly from your bank by scanning this QR Code with your phone's camera or by visiting **wkrk.uk/donate**.



If you'd like to give in some other way, find out about planned giving, or learn how we use donations then please ask any member of our team.

## Accessible for everyone

We aim to be accessible for everyone. For more information on accessibility at St Mary's please see **wkrk.uk/access** or ask any member of our team.



## Follow the instructions of our stewards

Please follow all instructions from our stewards.

## Digital order of service available

If you prefer, you can follow our order of service on your own phone or tablet. Just visit **wkrk.uk/oos** on your browser or scan this QR Code.



## This service is streamed

We record and live-stream many of our services. If you'd prefer not to appear on camera, please let any member of our team know. You can find more information on streaming, privacy and your rights on our website at **wkrk.uk/sp** or by scanning this QR Code.



## Safeguarding

Our Parish Safeguarding team can be contacted at any time. You can talk to Rev'd Claire or to Janet Blenkinsop, our Parish Safeguarding Officer, you can email **safeguarding@whitkirkchurch.org.uk**, or you can find more information and contact details at **wkrk.uk/safe**.



## **Other services this week**

### **Said Eucharist**

Wednesday 10 December at 10.00 am

### **Sanctuary**

Thursday 11 December at 6.30 pm

### **Sung Eucharist for the third Sunday of Advent**

Sunday 14 December at 10.00 am

### **Messy Christingle**

Sunday 14 December at 4.00 pm

## **Advent and Christmas at St Mary's**

- December 13, 7.00 pm: Svitoch Ukrainian Choir  
An Advent Concert
- December 14, 4.00 pm: Messy Christingle  
Messy Church for Christmas, with a short Christingle service
- December 18, 6.00 pm: The Longest Night  
A chance to reflect and remember
- December 19, 7.00 pm: Carol Singalong in the Brown Cow  
With Altofts and Normanton Brass Band
- December 21, 7.00 pm: Festival of Lessons and Carols
- Christmas Eve, 5.00 pm: Crib Service
- Christmas Eve, 11.30 pm: Midnight Mass

# The Gathering

*We gather in darkness and in silence, in anticipation of the light which is coming into the world. The sound of the bell signals the start of the service. If it is comfortable for you to do so, please stand.*

## Introduction

In the name of God, who has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and made a place for us in the kingdom of his beloved Son, we welcome you: grace to you and peace.

As we meet to celebrate anew the coming of God's kingdom, we hear revealed the mystery of God's loving purpose for us – how, when we were far off, he met us in his Son and brought us home, and how he humbled himself to take our human nature, that we might share his divine glory.

Let us then so celebrate this coming with our carols and hymns of praise, that our lives may be charged with his life; that we may bear witness to his glory and so bring light to those who sit in darkness. So first we pray for those among whom the Christ was born: the poor and helpless, the aged and young children; the cold, the hungry and the homeless; the victims of poverty, injustice and oppression, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and the unloved; those in despair or in the shadow of death.

Then, as we hear again the message of peace on earth and goodwill among all his people, we pray for the leaders of the nations, that all may be inspired to work together for the establishment of justice, freedom and peace the world over.

And that we may bear true witness to this hope in a divided world, we pray for the peace and unity of Christ's Body, the Church universal, that the whole earth may live to praise his name.

Finally, as we rejoice with the saints in heaven and on earth, we remember all who have gone before us with the sign of faith, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we offer up our prayers for the coming of his kingdom, in the words he himself has taught us, saying:

**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.**

And may the Lord when he comes find us watching and waiting, now and at all times.

**Amen.**

*Silence is kept.*

## Collect

Let us pray.

Almighty God,  
give us grace to cast away the works of darkness  
and to put on the armour of light,  
now in the time of this mortal life,  
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility;  
that on the last day,  
when he shall come again in his glorious majesty  
to judge the living and the dead,  
we may rise to the life immortal;  
through him who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

## Hymn

**Hills of the North, rejoice,  
echoing songs arise,  
hail with united voice  
him who made earth and skies:  
he comes in righteousness and love,  
he brings salvation from above.**

**Isles of the Southern seas,  
sing to the listening earth,  
carry on ev'ry breeze,  
hope of a world's new birth:  
in Christ shall all be made anew,  
his word is sure, his promise true.**

**Lands of the East, arise,  
he is your brightest morn,  
greet him with joyous eyes,  
praise shall his path adorn:  
the God whom we have longed to know  
in Christ draws near, and calls you now.**

**Shores of the utmost West,  
lands of the setting sun,  
welcome the heav'nly guest  
in whom the dawn has come:  
he brings a never-ending light  
who triumphed o'er our darkest night.**

**Shout, as you journey on,  
songs be in ev'ry mouth;  
lo, from the North they come,  
from East and West and South:  
in Jesus all shall find their rest,  
in him the sons of earth be blest.**

*Words: from the New English Hymnal  
based on Charles Edward Oakley (1832-1865)*

*Music: Martin Shaw (1875-1958)*

*Hymn Tune: LITTLE CORNARD*



*Please sit.*

## **First Reading: Zechariah 9.9-10**

A reading from the prophecy of Zechariah.

Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the warhorse from Jerusalem; and the battle-bow shall be cut off, and he shall command peace to the nations.

## **Anthem: Creator of the stars of night**

*Choir*     Creator of the stars of night,  
thy people's everlasting light,  
O Jesu, Saviour of us all,  
regard thy servants when they call.

Thou, grieving at the bitter cry  
of all creation doomed to die,  
didst come to save a ruined race  
with healing gifts of heav'nly grace.

Thou camest, Bridegroom of the bride,  
as drew the world to evening-tide,  
proceeding from a virgin shrine,  
the Son of Man, yet Lord divine.

All praise, eternal Son, to thee,  
whose advent sets thy people free,  
whom with the Father we adore,  
and Spirit blest, for evermore. Amen.

*Words: 7th century Latin  
translated by John Mason Neale (1818-1866)  
Music: Plainsong melody*

## **Second Reading: Jeremiah 23.5-6**

A reading from the prophecy of Jeremiah.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'

# Hymn

*Please stand.*

**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 vict'ry o'er the grave.**

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

**O come, thou dayspring, come and cheer  
our spirits by thine advent here;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadows put to flight.**

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

**O come, thou key of David, come  
and open wide our heav'nly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high,  
and close the path to misery.**

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

**O come, O come, thou Lord of might,  
who to the tribes on Sinai's height  
in ancient time didst give the Law,  
in cloud and majesty and awe.  
*Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.***

*Words: from the 'Great O Antiphons' (12th century)*

*translated by John Mason Neale (1818-1866)*

*Music: adapted by Thomas Helmore (1811-1890) from a French Missal*

*arranged by Colin Hand (1929-2015)*

*Hymn Tune: VENI EMMANUEL*

## **Third Reading: Isaiah 9.2 & 6-7**

A reading from the prophecy of Isaiah:

The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
on them light has shined. [...]  
For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders;  
and he is named  
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
His authority shall grow continually,  
and there shall be endless peace  
for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time onwards and for evermore.  
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

## **Hymn: Christ be our light**

*Please stand.*

**Longing for light, we wait in darkness,  
longing for truth, we turn to you,  
make us your own, your holy people,  
light for the world to see.**

***Christ, be our light!  
Shine in our hearts, shine through the darkness.  
Christ, be our light!  
Shine in your Church gathered today.***

**Longing for peace, our world is troubled,  
longing for hope, many despair,  
your word alone has power to save us,  
make us your living voice.**

***Christ, be our light! ...***

**Longing for food, many are hungry,  
longing for water, many still thirst,  
make us your bread, broken for others,  
shared until all are fed.**

***Christ, be our light! ...***

**Longing for shelter, many are homeless,  
longing for warmth, many are cold,  
make us your building, sheltering others,  
walls made of living stone.**

***Christ, be our light!***

***Shine in our hearts, shine through the darkness.***

***Christ, be our light!***

***Shine in your Church gathered today.***

**Many the gifts, many the people,  
many the hearts that yearn to belong,  
let us be servants to one another,  
making your kingdom come.**

***Christ, be our light! ...***

*Words & Music: Bernadette Farrell (b. 1957)*

*Please sit.*

## **Fourth Reading: Isaiah 7.10-15**

A reading from the prophecy of Isaiah:

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign.

Look, the young woman is with child and shall  
bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall  
eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to  
refuse the evil and choose the good.

## **Anthem: Gabriel's Message**

*Choir*     The angel Gabriel from heaven came,  
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame:  
'All hail,' said he, 'thou lowly maiden Mary.  
Most highly favoured lady.' Gloria!

'For known a blessed Mother thou shalt be;  
all generations laud and honour thee:  
thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold.  
Most highly favoured lady.' Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head;  
'To me be as it pleaseth God!' she said.  
'My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name.'  
Most highly favoured lady. Gloria!

Of her Emmanuel, the Christ, was born,  
in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn;  
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:  
Most highly favoured lady. Gloria!

*Words: Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924)*

*Music: Basque traditional melody  
arranged by Edgar Pettman (1866-1943)*

## **Fourth Reading: Romans 12.1,2;13.(8)11-14**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.



## **Anthem: People, look East**

*Choir*      People, look East, the time is near  
of the crowning of the year.  
Make your house fair as you are able,  
trim the hearth and set the table.  
People, look East and sing today:  
Love, the guest, is on the way.

Furrows, be glad, though earth is bare,  
one more seed is planted there:  
give up your strength the seed to nourish,  
that in course the flower may flourish.  
People, look East and sing today:  
Love, the rose, is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch, though night is dim  
one more light the bowl shall brim,  
shining beyond the frosty weather,  
bright as sun and moon together.  
People, look East and sing today:  
Love, the star, is on the way.

Angels, announce to man and beast  
he who cometh from the East,  
set every peak and valley humming  
with the word, the Lord is coming.  
People, look East and sing today:  
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

*Words: Eleanor Farjeon (1881-1965)*

*Music: Besançon melody arranged by Malcolm Archer (b. 1952)*

*Please remain seated*

## **Prayers of Intercession**

### **Hymn: On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry**

*Please stand.*

**On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry  
announces that the Lord is nigh;  
awake, and hearken, for he brings  
glad tidings of the King of kings.**

**Then cleansed be ev'ry breast from sin;  
make straight the way for God within;  
prepare we in our hearts a home,  
Where such a mighty guest may come.**

**For thou art our salvation, Lord,  
our refuge and our great reward;  
without thy grace we fade away,  
like flow'rs that wither and decay.**

**To heal the sick stretch out thine hand,  
and bid the fallen sinner stand;  
shine forth and let thy light restore  
earth's own true loveliness once more.**

**All praise, eternal Son, to thee  
whose advent doth thy people free,  
whom with the Father we adore  
and Holy Ghost for evermore.**

*Words: Charles Coffin (1676-1749)*

*translated by John Chandler (1806-1876) alt.*

*Music: from 'Musikalisches Handbuch' (1690)*

*Hymn Tune: WINCHESTER NEW*

*Please sit.*

## **Final Reading: John 1.19-31**

A reading from the Gospel according to John.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.' And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.'

Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' He said, 'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord"', as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, 'Why then are you baptising if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' John answered them, 'I baptise with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.' This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptising. The next day he saw Jesus coming towards him and declared, 'Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, "After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me." I myself did not know him; but I came baptising with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.'

## Hymn

*Please extinguish your candles, if you have not already done so, before standing to sing.*

*A collection, our financial offering in support of the work of the Church both at St. Mary's and across our diocese, is taken.*

*You can place cash or giving envelopes on the collection plates as they are passed around. If you would prefer, or if you miss the plate, you can also give by scanning this QR code, or by tapping your contactless card or device on the card reader by the door as you leave.*



**Lo, he comes with clouds descending,  
once for favoured sinners slain;  
thousand, thousand saints attending  
swell the triumph of his train.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Christ appears, on earth to reign.**

**Ev'ry eye shall now behold him  
robed in dreadful majesty;  
we who set at naught and sold him,  
pierced and nailed him to the tree,  
deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply wailing,  
shall the true Messiah see.**

**Those dear tokens of his passion  
still his dazzling body bears,  
cause of endless exultation  
to his ransomed worshippers:  
with what rapture, with what rapture, with what rapture  
gaze we on those glorious scars!**

**Yea, amen! Let all adore thee,  
high on thine eternal throne;  
Saviour, take the pow'r and glory,  
claim the kingdom for thine own.  
O come quickly, O come quickly, O come quickly!  
Alleluia! Come, Lord, come!**

*Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788),  
John Cennick (1718-1755) and Martin Madan (1726-1790)  
Music: from John Wesley's 'Select Hymns with Tunes Annexed' (1765)  
Hymn Tune: HELMSLEY*

## **Conclusion**

The night is far spent, the day is at hand.  
Let us therefore cast off the works of darkness  
and put on the armour of light.  
Come, O Lord, comfort the soul of your servant.

**Even so, Lord, come.**

O Lord Jesus Christ, come  
**at evening time, with light,**  
and in the morning, with your glory,  
**to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

He who receives our prayers says:  
Surely I come quickly.  
I am the root and offspring of David,  
I am the bright and morning star.

**Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.**

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,  
be among you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

## Our regular services

Sung Eucharist:	Every Sunday at 10.00 am
Said Eucharist:	Every Wednesday at 10.00 am
Choral Evensong:	First Sunday of the month at 6.00 pm
Compline:	First Wednesday of the month at 8.30 pm
Sanctuary:	Second Thursday of the month at 6.30 pm
Sacred Space:	Last Thursday of the month at 6.00 pm
Daily Prayers:	Tuesday to Saturday at 8.30am and 5.30pm

## Contact us


If you'd like to talk to us you can call us on **0113 264 5790**, send an email to **hello@whitkirkchurch.org.uk**, or find more details on our website at **whitkirkchurch.org.uk/contact**.

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