

Children return to their parents before the prayer of Blessing.

Christmas Blessing *The minister prays a prayer of blessing:*

May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds,
the perseverance of the wise men, the obedience of Joseph and
Mary, and the peace of the Christ-child be yours this Christmas;
and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, Son and
Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

Go in the light and peace of Christ!

All **Thanks be to God!**



Concluding Carol

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.
Hark! the herald-angels sing glory to the new-born King.



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.
Hark! the herald-angels sing glory to the new-born King.

**We hope you will join us for refreshments as we continue our
Christmas Celebrations in the Rutherwyke Room.**

We wish you a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year!

*Please visit our website for more information about St Mary's:
www.stmaryschurchthorpe.co.uk*

***Our next Family Service is
the First Sunday of January, 11:30am. Don't miss it!***

Copyright acknowledgements: St Mary's Thorpe Parochial Church Council (PCC). Reading texts are taken from the NRSV bible. Some text is © Archbishops' Council: Common Worship 2000 & Times & Seasons 2006. Hymns and Songs are printed by licence held by Thorpe

PCC / Diocese of Guildford: CCLI: 1427605.

St Mary's Church, Thorpe

**Church Approach, TW20 8TQ
www.stmaryschurchthorpe.co.uk**

CRIB SERVICE



Diocese of
Guildford

TRANSFORMING **CHURCH**
TRANSFORMING **LIVES**

Welcome to St Mary's Church for our Family Crib Services

Please set hearing aids to T for use of our hearing loop.

This booklet is all you need! As we go through the service we repeat the poem, which concludes with 'Follow the star, to Jesus!' You will find stars, angels and various crib scene characters on the chairs, which are for you to wave during the service. Children from our community will be taking part in the service, forming the Nativity. During 'While shepherds watched their flocks by night' your Christmas gift to the Church will be collected. If you pay income tax, please use a yellow gift-aid envelope and complete the front with your details.

Order of Service

Notices & Welcome

Once in royal David's city (First verse may be a solo.)

1. Once in royal Davids 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. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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;
when like stars His children crowned, all in white shall wait around.

We are all on a journey... where shall we go?

All Follow the star, to Jesus!

As we wave our stars young children are asked to take part in the actions:

Twinkle, twinkle little star, how I wonder what you are
up above the world so high, like a diamond in the sky.
Twinkle, twinkle little star, how I wonder what you are!

Wave stars!



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, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night, shepherds first saw the sight:
glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing alleluia:
Christ the Saviour is born, Christ the Saviour is born!

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



We gather at the Christmas Crib

The priest places the bambino into the Crib, which is located under the High Altar. The children gather in the Chancel and sit on the floor in front of the Crib scene for our Christmas prayers. A time of quiet reflection is kept.

Prayers Christmas Prayers to Jesus follow.

**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.**

We say together our Christmas Poem!
**All Jesus is the Christ child born to be King,
While hosts of heavenly angels sing.
This is the gold and fragrant myrrh,
and frankincense the gifts that were
placed by the manger warm with hay,
wherein the new born baby boy lay.
Looked on by the angels, who showed the way
to the humble shepherds who travelled that day.
This is the ox, and this is the ass
who saw such wonders come to pass.
At the darkened inn where the only room
was a stable out in the lamp lit gloom,
for the donkey and his precious load
who trudged the long and weary road.
To Bethlehem, by a royal decree
a census drew our Holy Family;
follow the star, to Jesus!**



O, star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
west-ward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!

Born a king on Bethlehem plain, gold I bring to crown him again.
King for ever, ceasing never, over us all to reign.

O, star of wonder, star of night

Frankincense to offer have I, incense owns the Deity nigh.
Prayer and praising, all are raising; worship him, God, most high!

O, star of wonder, star of night

Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume, breathes the life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in a stone cold tomb.

O, star of wonder, star of night

Glorious now, behold him arise, King and God and sacrifice.
Heaven sings Alleluia, Alleluia the earth replies.

O, star of wonder, star of night.

All This is the
**gold and fragrant myrrh,
and frankincense the gifts that were
placed by the manger warm with hay,
wherein the new born baby boy lay.
Looked on by the angels, who showed the way
to the humble shepherds who travelled that day.
This is the ox, and this is the ass
who saw such wonders come to pass.
At the darkened inn where the only room
was a stable out in the lamp lit gloom,
for the donkey and his precious load
who trudged the long and weary road.
To Bethlehem, by a royal decree.
a census drew our Holy Family;
follow the star, to Jesus!**



Reflection on the Nativity Scene

We take a few moments to recall what it must have been like on that first
Christmas as Jesus, light in our darkness, was born.

Reading 1: Luke 2: 1-5

Joseph & Mary travel to Bethlehem.

All So Mary and Joseph set out:
**To Bethlehem, by a royal decree
a census drew our Holy Family;
follow the star, to Jesus!**



Ding dong merrily on high, in heav'n the bells are ringing:
Ding dong! verily the sky is riv'n with angel singing.
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis! Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

E'en so here below, below, let steeple bells be swungen,
and "Io, io, io!" by priest and people sung. *Glo-ria...*

Pray you, dutifully prime, your matin chime, ye ringers;
may you beautifully rhyme, your evetime song, ye singers. *Glo-ria...*

All This is the donkey with precious load
**who trudged the long and weary road.
To Bethlehem, by a royal decree
a census drew our Holy Family;
follow the star, to Jesus!**

Wave donkeys, Mary & Joseph!

Little donkey

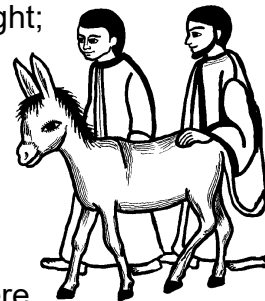
Little donkey, little donkey, on the dusty road,
got to keep on plodding onwards with your precious load.
Been a long time, little donkey, through the winter's night;
don't give up now, little donkey, Bethlehem's in sight.

*Ring out those bells tonight, Bethlehem, Bethlehem;
follow that star tonight, Bethlehem, Bethlehem.
Little donkey, little donkey, had a heavy day,
little donkey, carry Mary safely on her way.*

Little donkey, little donkey, on the dusty road,
there are wise men, waiting for a sign to bring them here.
Do not falter, little donkey, there's a star ahead:
It will guide you, little donkey, to a cattle shed.

Ring out those bells tonight...

(Repeat last line twice.)



All So Mary and Joseph arrived
**at the darkened inn where the only room
 was a stable out in the lamp lit gloom,
 for the donkey and his precious load
 who trudged the long and weary road.
 To Bethlehem, by a royal decree
 a census drew our Holy Family;
 follow the star, to Jesus!**

Reading 2: Luke 2: 6-7 *Jesus is Born.*

Away in a manger *Only the children sing the first verse (during which the baby arrives at the nativity).*

*Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
 the little Lord Jesus laid 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.



All This is the ox, and this is the ass *Wave sheep & donkeys!*
**who saw such wonders come to pass.
 At the darkened inn where the only room
 was a stable out in the lamp lit gloom,
 for the donkey and his precious load
 who trudged the long and weary road.
 To Bethlehem, by a royal decree
 a census drew our Holy Family;
 follow the star, to Jesus!**

Reading 3: Luke 2: 8-16 *The shepherds are told by angels and visit.*

COLLECTION

*During this Carol your Christmas financial gift to St Mary's Church is collected.
 If you pay income tax, please complete and use the yellow gift-aid envelope
 provided. (Gift-aid doesn't cost you money! But it does benefit your church!)*

While shepherds watched

1. While shepherds watched their flocks by night, all seated on the ground,
 the angel of the Lord came down and glory shone around.
2. 'Fear not', said he (for mighty dread, had seized their troubled mind);
 'Glad tidings of great joy I bring to you and all mankind.
3. To you in David's town this day is born of David's line
 a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord; and this shall be the sign:
4. The heavenly babe you there shall find, to human view displayed,
 all meanly wrapped in swathing bands and in a manger laid.'
5. Thus spake the seraph and forthwith appeared a shining throng
 of angels praising God, who thus addressed their joyful song:
6. 'All glory be to God on high, and to the earth be peace;
 good will henceforth from heaven to men begin and never cease.'

All So they all gathered at the inn:
**Looked on by the angels, who showed the way
 to the humble shepherds who travelled that day.
 This is the ox, and this is the ass
 who saw such wonders come to pass.
 At the darkened inn where the only room
 was a stable out in the lamp lit gloom,
 for the donkey and his precious load
 who trudged the long and weary road.
 To Bethlehem, by a royal decree
 a census drew our Holy Family;
 follow the star, to Jesus!**



Reading 4: Matthew 2: 1-12 *The Wise Men.*

We three Kings

(During which the Wise Men arrive at the scene and present gifts.)

Wave Stars & Wise Men!

We three Kings of Orient are: bearing gifts we traverse afar,
 field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.