

## *Order of Service*

*The service will proceed unannounced—you are invited to sit for the lessons, address and choir items, and stand for the fifth lesson and the carols*

*Please stand at the ringing of the bell. The Master, Wardens, Clerk and clergy enter during the singing of the first carol*

### **Carol**

**(CHOIR)** 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.

**(ALL)** 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 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;  
When like stars His children crowned,  
All in white shall wait around.

*Words: Cecil Frances Alexander*

*Music: H J Gauntlett, harm. A H Mann, arr. David Willocks*

## **Welcome**

The Reverend David Armstrong, Rector

## **Bidding Prayer**

The Revd Richard Coles, Honorary Chaplain

*concluding with the Lord's Prayer said by all:*

**Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name;  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done; in earth as it is in heaven. Give us  
this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive them that 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.**

## **1<sup>st</sup> Lesson: Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7**

Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah

*read by the Clerk, Matthew Lawrence*

## **Carol**

O come, O come, Emmanuel!  
Redeem thy captive Israel  
That into exile drear is gone  
Far from the face of God's dear Son.  
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O come, thou Branch of Jesse! draw  
The quarry from the lion's claw;  
From the dread caverns of the grave,  
From nether hell, they people save.

*Refrain*

O come, O come, thou Dayspring bright!  
Pour on our souls thy healing light;  
Dispel the long night's lingering gloom,  
And pierce the shadows of the tomb.

*Refrain*

O come, thou Lord of David's Key!  
The royal door fling wide and free;  
Safeguard for us the heavenward road,  
And bar the way to death's abode.

*Refrain*

O come, O come, Adonai,  
Who in thy glorious majesty  
From that high mountain clothed in awe,  
Gavest thy folk the elder Law.

*Refrain*

*Words: based on the ancient Advent Antiphons*

*Music: old French*

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Lesson: Luke 1: 26-38**

The Angel Gabriel salutes the  
Blessed Virgin Mary

*read by the Fourth Warden, Charles Williams*

## Choir — Gabriel's Message

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,  
His wings as drifted snow, his eyes of flame;  
“All hail,” said he, “thou lowly maiden Mary,  
Most highly favoured lady,” Gloria!

“For know 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: Traditional Basque, 'Birjina gaztettobat zegoen', tr. Sabine Baring-Gould*

*Music: Traditional Basque, arr. Edgar Pettman*

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Lesson: Luke 2: 1-7

St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus

*read by Steward, Serena Cheng QC*

## Carol

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 streets shineth  
The everlasting light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in thee to-night.

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.

*Words: Bishop Phillips Brooks*

*Music: English traditional, arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams and Thomas Armstrong*

**4<sup>th</sup> Lesson: Luke 2: 8-20**

The shepherds go to the manger  
*read by the Immediate Past Master,*  
*Jonathan Muirhead OBE DL*

## Choir — Noel Nouvelet

Noël nouvelet, Noël chantons ici;  
Dévotes gens, crions à Dieu merci!  
Chantons Noël pour le roi nouvelet,  
Noël nouvelet, Noël chantons ici!

L'ange disait: Pasteurs, partez d'ici;  
L'âme en repos et le coeur rejoui;  
En Bethléem trouverez l'agnelet.'  
Noël nouvelet, Noël chantons ici!

En Bethléem, étant tous réunis,  
Trouvent l'enfant, Joseph, Marie aussi.  
La crèche était au lieu d'un bercelet.  
Noël nouvelet, Noël chantons ici!

Bientôt les rois, par l'étoile éclaircis,  
De l'Orient dont ils étaient sortis,  
A Bethléem vinrent un matinet.  
Noël nouvelet, Noël chantons ici!

Voici mon Dieu, mon sauveur Jésus Christ,  
Par qui sera le prodige accompli  
De nous sauver par son sang vermeillet!  
Noël nouvelet, Noël chantons ici!

*'Noel Nouvelet', we sing a new-born King.  
With our earthly song the firmament shall ring.  
See how the love of God such joy doth bring.  
'Noel Nouvelet', for Christ the new-born King.*

*'Shepherds from the fields, let gladness fill your mind.  
Go to Bethlehem, the Lamb of God to find!'  
Lo, from the sky the angel voices sing  
'Noel Nouvelet', for Christ the new-born King.*

*Thus they left their sheep, and to the stable bare  
Came with haste and found Joseph and Mary there.  
With them they marvelled at this holy thing:  
'Noel Nouvelet', for Christ the new-born King.*

*Soon the three wise men, who by a star were led,  
Journeyed from the East, and at the lowly bed.  
Each bowed the knee and made an offering.  
'Noel Nouvelet', for Christ the new-born King.*

*Take my heart, Lord Jesus, who for me wast slain,  
Thou who on the Cross hast borne my grief and pain,  
Bringing me healing through thy suffering.  
'Noel Nouvelet', for Christ the new-born King.*

*Words: Traditional French carol, tr. Marion Jackson*

*Music: Traditional French carol, arr. John Rutter*

*During the singing of the following carol a collection will be taken for St. Botolph's Advent & Christmas charities, which this year reflect two issues particularly highlighted by the Covid-19 pandemic: homelessness and mental health.*

**Veterans Aid's** vision is of a society in which all veterans can live with dignity and independence, and the charity's activities revolve around helping ex-servicemen and women in crisis, particularly those who have become homeless. The charity has been fully operational through the pandemic, appropriately homing, or preventing from becoming homeless, hundreds of ex-service personnel.

2021 has been another year of anxiety and uncertainty for all of us—but those already living with mental health problems have faced extra challenges, and more people will need help as the situation continues. **MIND** provides advice and support to empower anyone experiencing a mental health problem, as well as campaigning to improve services, raise awareness and promote understanding.

*Please give generously, and if you are a UK taxpayer please complete a Gift Aid envelope so that the charities may benefit from an additional 25% on top of your donation.*

*Card and contactless payments may also be made—if you prefer to donate by this method, please use the device on the table at the back of the church.  
These donations may also be Gift Aided.*

## 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, Christ the Lord!*

God of God,  
Light of Light,  
Lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
Very God,  
Begotten, not created:  
*O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

See how the shepherds,  
Summoned to his cradle,  
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;  
We too will thither  
Bend our joyful footsteps:  
*O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

Sing, choirs of angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
Glory to God  
In the highest:  
*O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

*Words: Adeste fideles, Latin hymn tr. F Oakeley, W T Brooke*

*Music: Anon 18c, arr. David Willcocks*

*Please stand*

## 5<sup>th</sup> Lesson: John 1: 1-14

*St John unfolds the mystery of the Incarnation*

*read by the Master, Gavin Bacon*

## **Choir — The Sussex Carol**

On Christmas night all Christians sing  
To hear the news the angels bring.  
News of great joy, news of great mirth,  
News of our merciful King's birth.

When sin departs before his grace,  
Then life and health come in its place.  
Angels and men with joy may sing  
All for to see the new-born King.

Then why should men on earth be so sad,  
Since our Redeemer made us glad?  
When from our sin he set us free,  
All for to gain our liberty?

All out of darkness we have light,  
Which made the angels sing this night.  
“Glory to God and peace to men,  
Now and for evermore, Amen!”

*Words: English traditional carol*

*Music: Traditional, arr. David Willcocks*

## **Christmas Address**

*The Honorary Chaplain*

### ***Prayers***

*read by Julian Barrow, Nicholas Williams, James Blott,  
Nicholas Hollis*

*At the end of each prayer, the reader will say:  
Lord in your mercy*

***All respond:           Hear our prayer***

## 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.*

## **The Blessing**

The Reverend David Armstrong

### **Choir — Tomorrow shall be my dancing day**

Tomorrow shall be my dancing day:

I would my true love did so chance

To see the legend of my play,

To call my true love to my dance:

*Sing O my love, O my love,*

*This have I done for my true love.*

Then was I born of a virgin pure,

Of her I took fleshly substance;

Thus was I knit to man's nature,

To call my true love to my dance:

*Sing O my love, O my love,*

*This have I done for my true love .*

In a manger laid and wrapped I was,

So very poor, this was my chance,

Betwixt an ox and a silly poor ass,

To call my true love to my dance:

*Sing O my love, O my love,*

*This have I done for my true love.*

Then afterwards baptised I was,

The Holy Ghost on me did glance;

My Father's voice heard from above

To call my true love to my dance:

*Sing O my love, O my love,*

*This have I done for my true love.*

*Words: English traditional carol*

*Music: John Gardner*

## **Recessional Music**

*Trumpet Voluntary—John Stanley*

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**Musicians:**

The Choir of St Botolph-without-Bishopsgate

Organist and Director of Music: Iestyn Evans

Trumpeter: Julie Ryan

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*The Clergy and staff of St. Botolph's wish the members of the Leathersellers' Company and their families and friends a blessed Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year.*

All are welcome to attend our Advent & Christmas Services:

**Thursday 16 December at 1.10pm:**

Parish Carol Service

with the Choir of the Coopers' Company & Coborn School  
and St Botolph's Choir

**Monday 20 December at 5.30pm:**

Carols by Candlelight

with St. Botolph's Choir

**Friday 24 December at 11.00am**

Family Eucharist of Christmas and Blessing of the Crib

with St. Botolph's Choir

Details of all forthcoming services can be found on the website at  
[www.botolph.org.uk](http://www.botolph.org.uk)