



The Parish and Ward Church of
St Botolph-without-Bishopsgate
in the City of London
EC2M 3TL



Hugo van der Goes, Portinari Triptych, Galleria degli Uffizi, Florence

**FAMILY MASS OF CHRISTMAS
& BLESSING OF THE CRIB**
Friday 22 December 2023 at 11.00am

Fr David Armstrong, Rector

Iestyn Evans, Director of Music

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St Botolph-without-Bishopsgate - a place of calm, sanctuary and God's love in the City

St Botolph's Advent & Christmas Charities

Alms given and collections taken during Advent and at Carol Services are divided between our chosen charities, which this year reflect two issues particularly relevant to our Advent theme of 'The Outcast'.



PROVIDENCE ROW

HELPING HOMELESS AND VULNERABLE PEOPLE SINCE 1860

Providence Row has been working since 1860 with all sectors of the homeless population in Tower Hamlets and the City of London, including those turned away from other projects due to their special needs. The charity works with more than 1800 homeless and vulnerably housed people a year, offering an integrated service of crisis support, advice, recovery, and learning and training programmes. The Dellow Day Centre provides essential services including food, showers and laundry facilities, which help to restore health and dignity, and the charity's wide range of advice support and outreach services also help to tackle the more complex issues which may be the root cause of a person's homelessness.

ABCD Bethlehem is a UK charity which has worked for nearly 40 years in partnership with organisations supporting disabled children in hospitals and refugee camps in the West Bank. The children and their families cared for



by ABCD's partners were already in great need of help, but the devastating conflict in Gaza has had a further huge impact on their lives. With Palestinian areas of the West Bank in lockdown and suffering nightly raids, the psychological damage to children and young adults is incalculable. Your donations will go towards ABCD's crisis appeal to meet the needs of hundreds of vulnerable children in refugee camp centres by providing additional trauma therapy, support for families with food parcels and medication, and urgent repairs to centres damaged in the conflict.

Please give as generously as you are able at this time:

- **Cash donations** may be placed in the alms boxes, or handed to a member of staff at any time. If you are a UK taxpayer please complete a Gift Aid envelope so we can claim back a further 25% from HMRC.
- **Card/contactless donations** can be made at any time via the devices at the front or back of church, or this dedicated QR code, and can be Gift Aided.
- **Credit card donations** can be made via the link on our website, and can be Gift Aided.

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**Welcome to St Botolph's for our annual
Family Mass of Christmas and Blessing of the Crib.**

The setting of the Mass is Missa Brevis in C, K220 ('Spatzenmesse')
by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart 1756-91

Please stand at the ringing of the bell

CAROL: It came upon the midnight clear (verses 1-2)

It came upon the midnight clear, That glorious song of old, From angels bending near the earth To touch their harps of gold: 'Peace on the earth, goodwill to men from heaven's all-gracious King!' The world in solemn stillness lay To hear the angels sing.	Still through the cloven skies they come, With peaceful wings unfurled; And still their heavenly music floats O'er all the weary world; Above its sad and lowly plains They bend on hovering wing; And ever o'er its Babel sounds The blessed angels sing.
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E H Sears

Traditional English tune, adapted Arthur Sullivan

THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRISTMAS CANDLE

The fifth candle on the Advent Wreath is lit, and this prayer is said:

Priest: Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, King of peace: to you be praise and glory for ever. The new light of your incarnate Word gives gladness in our sorrow, and a presence in our isolation. Fill our lives with your light, until they overflow with gladness and praise.

All: Blessed be God for ever.

CAROL: It came upon the midnight clear (verses 3-4)

Yet with the woes of sin and strife The world has suffered long: Beneath the angel-strain have rolled Two thousand years of wrong: And man, at war with man, hears not The love-song which they bring: O hush the noise, ye men of strife, And hear the angels sing!	For lo! the days are hastening on, By prophet-bards foretold, When, with the ever-circling years, Comes round the age of gold: When peace shall over all the earth Its ancient splendours fling, And the whole world send back the song Which now the angels sing.
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THE GREETING

Priest In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All Amen.

Priest The Lord be with you

All and also with you.

PRAYER OF PENITENCE

Priest Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, firmly resolved to keep God's commandments and to live in love and peace with all.

All Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned against you and against our neighbour in thought and word and deed, through negligence, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault. We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us all that is past and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen.

Priest Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

*Please remain standing as the Choir sing **Gloria in excelsis:***

Gloria in excelsis Deo, et in terra
pax hominibus bonae voluntatis.
Laudamus te, benedicimus te,
adoramus te, glorificamus te,
gratias agimus tibi propter magnam
gloriam tuam, Domine Deus, Rex
caelestis, Deus Pater omnipotens.

Domine Fili unigenite, Jesu Christe;
Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius
Patris, qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis; qui tollis peccata
mundi, suscipe deprecationem
nostram; qui sedes ad dexteram
Patris, miserere nobis.

Quoniam tu solus Sanctus, tu solus
Dominus, tu solus Altissimus, Jesu
Christe, cum Sancto Spiritu, in
gloria Dei Patris. Amen.

*Glory to God in the highest, and
peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father, we
worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.*

*Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the
Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the
world: have mercy on us; you
are seated at the right hand of
the Father: receive our prayer.*

*For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord, you alone
are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory
of God the Father. Amen.*

COLLECT

Priest Almighty God, you make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as we joyfully receive him as our redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold him when he shall come to be our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

All Amen.

Please sit

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7

At the end:

Reader This is the Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Please stand

Gospel Acclamation

*The refrain is sung first by the Cantor **and then by all:***

Ant.
6.
A



Lle-lú-ia, * alle-lú-ia, alle-lú-ia.

This verse is sung by the Cantor:

I am bringing you good news of great joy for all people.

and the refrain is then repeated by all

GOSPEL: S Luke 2: 1-20

Priest A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St Luke.

All Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end:

Priest This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Please sit

THE BLESSING OF THE CRIB

The Crib figures are brought forward by members of the congregation and the Crib is blessed with these words:

Priest God our Father, your Son Jesus Christ was born of the Virgin Mary for us and for our salvation: bless this crib, which we have prepared to celebrate that holy birth; may all who see it be strengthened in faith and receive the fullness of life he came to bring, who is alive and reigns for ever.

All Amen.

PRAYERS

Priest In peace let us pray to the Lord.

*The response to the words 'Holy God' is '**Hear our prayer**'.*

Father, your Son our Saviour was born in human flesh.

Renew your Church as the Body of Christ. *Holy God:*

There was no room for your Son in the inn. Protect with your love those who have no home and all who live in poverty. *Holy God:*

At this time Mary, in the pain of labour, brought your Son to birth.

Hold in your hand all who are in pain or distress. *Holy God:*

At this time your Christ came as a light shining in the darkness.

Bring comfort to all who suffer in the sadness of our world.

Holy God:

At this time the angels sang, 'Peace to God's people on earth.'

Strengthen those who work for peace and justice in all the world.

Holy God:

At this time shepherds in the field heard good tidings of joy. Give us grace to preach the gospel of Christ's redemption. *Holy God:*

At this time strangers found the Holy Family, and saw the baby lying in the manger. Bless our homes and all whom we love.

Holy God:

At this time heaven is come down to earth, and earth is raised to heaven. Hold in your hand all those who have passed through death in the hope of your coming kingdom. *Holy God:*

At this time Christians the world over celebrate Christ's birth.

Open our hearts that he may be born in us today. *Holy God:*

Priest Angels and shepherds worshipped at the manger throne. Receive the worship we offer in fellowship with Mary, Joseph and the saints through him who is your Word made flesh, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

All Amen.

Please stand

THE PEACE

Priest The peace of the Lord be always with you

All and also with you.

Priest and people exchange a sign of peace We are now sharing the peace as normal, but please respect other congregation members who may feel more vulnerable than you and may not yet feel able to shake hands.

Please remain standing

CAROL: O little town of Bethlehem (verses 1-4)

During the singing of this carol a collection will be taken up for our Advent charities, Providence Row and ABCD Bethlehem. If you are a UK taxpayer please complete the Gift Aid envelope provided. We are also able to accept contactless payments – if you prefer to donate by this method please use one of the devices at the front or back of the church, or the dedicated QR code on the inside front cover of this order of service (where you will also find more information on the charities).

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.

Bishop Phillips Brooks

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.

Where children pure and happy
Pray to the blessèd Child,
Where misery cries out to thee,
Son of the mother mild;
Where charity stands watching
And faith holds wide the door,
The dark night wakes, the glory breaks,
And Christmas comes once more.

Trad. arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams

Please remain standing

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Priest The Lord be with you

All and also with you.

Priest Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Priest Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

Priest It is indeed right, it is our duty and our joy, at all times and in all places to give you thanks and praise, holy Father, heavenly King, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. For he is your living Word; through him you have created all things from the beginning, and formed us in your own image.

Through him you have freed us from the slavery of sin, giving him to be born of a woman and to die upon the cross; you raised him from the dead and exalted him to your right hand on high. Through him you have sent upon us your holy and life-giving Spirit, and made us a people for your own possession.

And now we give you thanks because by the power of the Holy Spirit he took our nature upon him and was born of the Virgin Mary his mother, that being himself without sin he might make us clean from all sin.

Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and saying:

*The Choir sing **Sanctus & Benedictus:***

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus,
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.

Pleni sunt cæli et terra gloria
tua. Hosanna in excelsis.

Benedictus qui venit in nomine
Domini. Hosanna in excelsis.

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power
and might, heaven and earth are
full of your glory. Hosanna in the
highest. Blessed is he who comes in
the name of the Lord. Hosanna in
the highest.*

Kneel or sit

Priest Accept our praises, heavenly Father, through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, and as we follow his example and obey his command, grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit these gifts of bread and wine may be to us his body and his blood;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying: Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Therefore, heavenly Father, we remember his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross; we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; we look for the coming of your kingdom, and with this bread and this cup we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Priest Great is the mystery of faith

All Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again.

Priest Accept through him, our great high priest, this our sacrifice of thanks and praise, and as we eat and drink these holy gifts in the presence of your divine majesty, renew us by your Spirit, inspire us with your love and unite us in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

All Blessing and honour and glory and power be yours for ever and ever. Amen.

Priest As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

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.

Priest We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

All Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.

Priest Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you, and his blood which he shed for you. Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

**All Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.**

COMMUNION

The priest says this invitation to communion

Priest Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

All Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldst come under my roof, but speak the word only and my soul shall be healed.

The priest and people receive Communion. Communicant members of all Christian traditions are invited to receive Holy Communion.

Sanitiser is available at the chancel step if you wish to sanitise your hands before going forward to kneel (or stand, if you prefer) at the altar rail to receive Communion.

*Words of distribution are used and the communicant replies **Amen.***

All other members of the congregation are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing—please hold this booklet as a sign.

CHOIR: Infant holy, Infant lowly

Infant holy, Infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the Babe is Lord of all.
Swift are winging angels singing,
Nowells ringing, tidings bringing,
Christ the Babe is Lord of all.

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new;
Saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,
Praises voicing, greet the morrow,
Christ the Babe was born for you!

Traditional Polish, tr. Edith Reed

Polish carol, arr David Willcocks

CAROL: Away in a manger

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.

Anon.

Tune W J Kirkpatrick, arr. David Willcocks

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

All **Father of all, we give you thanks and praise, that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory. May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Please stand

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

Priest 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, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

Priest Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

Please remain standing

CAROL: O come, all ye faithful

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!

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!

Adeste fideles, Latin hymn tr. F Oakeley, W T Brooke et al.

Anon 18c, arr. David Willcocks

Please remain standing as the priest and choir depart

ORGAN MUSIC: Noël étranger – Claude Daquin 1694-1772

Please join us for seasonal refreshments

Later today... a Festive Entertainment!

Acclaimed actor Bruce Morrison presents 'A Christmas Carol'

More information and tickets:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/charles-dickens-a-christmas-carol-tickets-748331889827>

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR CLOSURE

Following this evening's performance of 'A Christmas Carol',
the church will close for the holiday period,
and will open again on **Tuesday 2 January at 10.00am.**

Our first service of 2024 will be the Said Mass that day at 12.10 pm
(please note there will be no 8.10 am Mass that day).

Wednesday 3 January 2024 at 1.10 pm

Choral Mass of the Epiphany

with St Botolph's Choir

Music by Victoria, Lassus and Bach



***A happy Christmas and a blessed
New Year to you all from everyone
at St Botolph's Church***

