

The Parish Church
of St. Paul, Wokingham
with All Saints', Wokingham



Service of Nine
Lessons and Carols

Sunday 18th December
2022 at 6.15pm

It is good to share this service with people from All Saints' Church, since their Church is currently closed for major rebuilding which will lead to a more versatile and welcoming space- a space for all. Welcome too if you are joining through the Livestream.

You are invited to STAND for the Congregational Carols and to SIT for the Lessons and for the Choir Carols.

The response to This is the word of the Lord is "Amen. Come, Lord Jesus."

A RETIRING COLLECTION will be taken to support the work of our three charities- USPG, Soulscape and The Children's Society.

We worship by candlelight, looking and longing for God to act, to come. With grandeur and gravity, and beauty and poise, God acts and God will act again: God comes in Christ and God will come again in glory to judge creation.

Organ Music *Variations on a theme of Samuel Scheidt: Puer Natus in Bethlehem, by Rebecca Groom te Velde (b.1956)*

Carol Once in Royal David's City

V 1 Solo: Once in royal David's city

V 2 Choir only: He came down to earth from heaven

**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 round,
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.

Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895)

Welcome and Bidding Prayer, by the Rector of St Paul's

Lesson 1 *Genesis 3 God announces his sentence on
Adam and Eve for their disobedience.*

Choir Adam lay y-bounden
(Boris Ord, 1897-1961)

Lesson 2 *Genesis 22 God promises Abraham that his
offspring will be as numerous as the stars in the sky.*

Choir

What sweeter music

(John Rutter, b. 1945)

What sweeter music can we bring
Than a carol, for to sing
The birth of this our heavenly King?
Awake the voice! Awake the string!

Dark and dull night, fly hence away,
And give the honour to this day,
That sees December turned to May.
That sees December turned to May.

Lesson 3

Isaiah 9

The birth of God's Messiah is foretold.

Choir

I saw three ships (arr. D. Willcocks, 1919-2015)

Lesson 4

Isaiah 11

The promise of Christ's peace for the world.

Carol

O little town of Bethlehem

**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 to-day.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel!

Phillips Brooks (1835-1893)

Lesson 5

St. Luke 1

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Choir

Hymn to the Virgin

(Benjamin Britten, 1913-1976)

Of one that is so fair and bright
Brighter than the day is light
I cry to thee, thou see to me
Lady, pray thy Son for me
That I may come to thee *Maria*.

All this world war forlorn
Till our Lord was y-born
With *ave* it went away
darkest night, and comes the day.
The well springeth out of thee *Virtutis*.

Lady, flower of everything
Thou bear Jesu, heaven's King
Of all thou bear'st the prize
Lady, Queen of Paradise
Maid, mild, mother, *Es effecta*.

Lesson 6

St. Matthew 1

St Matthew tells of the birth of Jesus.

Carol

While Shepherds watched their flocks by night

**While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down,
and glory shone around.**

**“Fear not,” said he, (for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind);
“Glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and all mankind.**

**“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:**

**“The heavenly Babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all meanly wrapped in swathing bands,
and in a manger laid.”**

**Thus spake the seraph, and forthwith
appeared a shining throng
of angels praising God, who thus
addressed their joyful song:**

**“All glory be to God on high
and on the earth be peace;
good will henceforth from heaven to men
begin and never cease.”**

Nahum Tate (1657-1715)

Choir

Softly

(Will Todd, b.1970)

Softly sleeping, sent from heaven,
Shining light against the cold,
You will renew me, waken my soul.
Bring me out of darkness and waken my soul.
Word of God born in darkness,
Gift of wisdom from afar,
You will refresh me, open my heart;
Bring me out of darkness and open my heart.

Choir On Christmas Night
 (James Burton, b.1974)

Lesson 8 St. Matthew 2
 The wise men are led to Bethlehem by a star.

Choir *Hodie*
 (James Whitbourn, b. 1963)
Hodie Christus natus est. The holy child is born.
In his love man's hope does rest on this eternal morn.
Cherubs with trumpets shatter the stars,
Seraphs touch their strings.
Saints, angels, choirs are massed.
The Word seeds the heav'n in rings.
In a blessed stable a picture is seen.
Parents, Jesus there.
An ass looking on,
an ox beaming at the best hay of the year.
The wise men are no longer wise:
God in the crib has bewildered them.
They place their gifts around the sides.
Kneel and pray. Adore him.
Yet in this joy is sensed a shadow, an intimation of loss.
A ghostly fear of a dark tomorrow
with thorns and a heavy cross.
But now the heavens spin fast around.
Its jubilation day.
Infinity's ears are whipped by sound.
Would this day so stay.
Hodie Christus natus est.

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, O come, let us adore him,
O COME, LET US ADORE HIM, Christ the Lord!**

**God of God, Light of Light,
Lo! He is born from the Virgin's womb;
very God, begotten, not created.
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
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, O come, let us adore him,
O COME, LET US ADORE HIM, Christ the Lord!**

*trans. Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880)
& William Thomas Brooke (1848-1917)*

Lesson 9 *St. John 1 St. John unfolds the great mystery*
[Please stand] *of the incarnation.*

Choir *O Magnum Mysterium*
 (Toma Luis De Victoria, c.1548-1611)
O great mystery and wonderful sacrament,
that the animals should see
the newborn Lord lying in a manger.
O blessed Virgin whose womb
was worthy to bear Christ our Lord.
Alleluia.

The Prayers

which conclude,

Let us humbly offer our prayers and praises
to the throne of heaven,

in the words which Christ himself taught us:

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 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.

The Christmas Blessing – *we stand and bow our heads.*

Organ Pieces

In dulci jubilo (BWV 729),

by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Prelude on 'God rest you merry, gentlemen',

by John Rutter (b. 1945)

**Do please come to the Parish Rooms after the service
for refreshments and fellowship.**

**Most services at St Paul's and Woosehill
are Livestreamed for those
who can't get to Church.**

Christmas Services 2022

St Paul's Church, Wokingham

Wednesday 21st December

10am Crib Service for younger children and families
(please come dressed as your favourite person in the story)

Saturday 24th December – Christmas Eve

3.00pm Christingle Service for all ages
5.00pm Christingle Service for all ages
11.00pm Midnight Mass *(which will also be Livestreamed)*

Sunday 25th December – Christmas Day

8.00am BCP said Mass
9.30am All Together Mass to greet the Saviour's birth

The Community Church of St Nicholas, Emmbrook Village Hall

Saturday 24th December – Christmas Eve

9.00pm First Mass of Christmas
(Please note that there is no Christmas morning service at St Nicholas' Church)

Woosehill Church, Chestnut Avenue

Saturday 24th December – Christmas Eve

4.00pm Crib Service

Sunday 25th December – Christmas Day

10.00am Christmas Day Family Service

Sunday Services in the Parish

There are a wide range of events during the week in our three churches for people of all ages- see our websites:

www.spauls.org.uk
www.woosehillchurch.org

All Saints' Church (Norreys Avenue, RG40 1UE)

Our main services will be held in The Cornerstone this year

Saturday 24th December – Christmas Eve

- 3.00pm Family Service
- 4.00pm Carol Singing around the tree in the Market Place, Wokingham
- 11.15pm Midnight Communion

Sunday 25th December – Christmas Day

- 8.00am Holy Communion
- 9.30am Parish Communion (Please book in advance)



All Saints Church
W O K I N G H A M



St Paul's
Church
Wokingham

