

The Parish of St Paul, Wokingham

Christmas Day



**St Paul's
Church**
Wokingham



DIOCESE of OXFORD

A Christ-like Church for the sake of God's world

Introduction

Welcome to this house of prayer. We are a Church family committed to welcoming all those who come as God's precious and beloved child, whatever their age or race, sexuality, or experience, background or confidence in Church.

Anybody, of any age, who has been baptised in any Christian Church, is warmly invited to receive Holy Communion here. You are welcome to receive the bread and the wine, or, if you prefer, to take the bread only.

Communion can be received either at the altar rail or in your pew. Please tell the priest if you need a gluten-free wafer. If you would prefer to receive a prayer of blessing please come forward with everyone else and keep your head bowed at the rail. If you would like to receive communion or a blessing in the pew, please tell one of the welcomers (the people wearing name badges).

Welcome home.

¶ The Gathering

Opening carol

Please stand to sing the opening carol.

During the carol, the altar is honoured with incense.

The Greeting

The priest says

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

All **Amen.**

The Lord be with you

All **and also with you.**

The priest introduces the service.

The Advent Wreath

The final candle on the Advent wreath is lit as a sign of the Light that has come into the world. A prayer is said and then we sing

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

Prayers of Penitence

The priest introduces the prayers of penitence as we say sorry for the things we have done wrong.

Christ the light of the world has come
to dispel the darkness of our hearts.

In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

Almighty God,
you sent your Son full of grace and truth:
forgive us for the times when we have hurt others.
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Almighty God,
the shepherds ran to meet your Son:
forgive us for the times when we forget you.
Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

Almighty God
your servant Mary responded joyfully to your call:
forgive us for the times
when we know what you want us to do
and fail to do it.
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

The priest says

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.**

Gloria in Excelsis

All stand to sing

All Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest.

**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.**

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest.

**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.**

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest.

**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.**

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest.

The Collect

The priest says

The Lord be with you
All **and also with you.**

Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ,
your birth at Bethlehem
draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth:
accept our heartfelt praise
as we worship you,
our Saviour and our eternal God.

All **Amen.**

Please sit.

¶ *The Liturgy of the Word*

First Reading

A reading from the Old or New Testaments is read. At the end, the reader says,

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Carol

Please stand to sing the carol.

Gospel Reading

The deacon or priest says,

The Lord be with you

All **and also with you.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to N.

All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

After the reading

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Address

An address is given.

The Creed

Please stand.

**All We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

Please sit or kneel.

After each petition, one of these responses is used:

Lord, in your mercy
All **hear our prayer.**

At the end, we all say

Merciful Father,
All **accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

¶ *The Liturgy of the Sacrament*

The Peace

Please stand. The priest says

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given,
and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All **and also with you.**

You are invited to share the sign of peace with those around you, by shaking hands, waving, or bowing, and saying 'Peace be with you.'

The Preparation of the Altar

A carol is sung and the gifts of bread and wine are brought to the altar on behalf of the congregation

A collection is taken to support the mission and ministry of St Paul's.

When the altar is prepared and the gifts and people have been honoured with incense, the priest says,

Pray, my brothers and sisters
that our sacrifice may be acceptable
to God, the almighty Father.

**All May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands
for the praise and glory of his Name,
for our good and the good of all his Church.**

Word made flesh, life of the world,
in your incarnation you embraced our poverty:
by your Spirit may we share in your riches.

All Amen.

The Eucharistic Prayer

Please remain standing if you are able. The priest says or sings

The Lord be with you
All and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
All We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All It is right to give thanks and praise.

The priest says or sings the Eucharistic preface, calling to mind the great works of God in bringing about our salvation.

All sing together

**All 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.**

The priest recalls the Last Supper, when Christ gave us the Eucharist, and says the Words of Institution by which the bread and wine are consecrated for us. The priest then says

Great is the mystery of faith.
All Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

The priest continues in prayer, concluding

by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,
for ever and ever.
All Amen.

Please sit or kneel. Silence is kept.

The Lord's Prayer

The priest introduces the Lord's Prayer.

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

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.**

The Breaking of the Bread

The priest breaks the consecrated bread and says

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.**

As the bread is broken, all sing

**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.**

The Giving of Communion

The priest holds the consecrated bread and says

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

**All Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
 but only say the word and I shall be healed.**

*The priest and people receive Holy Communion. Please come to the altar if
you wish when invited by the sidespeople.*

*If you normally receive communion in your own church or have done so in the
past, you are very welcome to do so here.*

During communion carols are sung.

Post-Communion Prayer

The priest says

Let us pray.

God our Father,
whose Word has come among us
in the Holy Child of Bethlehem:
may the light of faith illumine our hearts
and shine in our words and deeds;
through him who is Christ the Lord.

All **Amen.**

¶ *The Conclusion*

Notices may be given and the final carol is sung.

Blessing

The priest says

The Lord be with you
All and also with you.

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 upon you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

The Dismissal

The deacon or priest says

Go in the peace of Christ.
All Thanks be to God.

The ministers leave the church as an organ voluntary is played. Please be seated.

We wish you a happy and holy Christmas.