



**Christmass Eve Carol Service**  
**24<sup>th</sup> December 2021 at 7.00 pm**  
**IN CHURCH AND ALSO IN SOUTH**  
**CHURCHYARD**

- Please print a copy of this sheet or download on your phone or tablet for everyone in your group.
- **IF YOU ARE GOING TO BE IN THE CHURCH**, enter through **north** churchyard gate (*opposite Front St*).
- **IF YOU ARE GOING TO BE IN THE CHURCHYARD**, enter through **either south** gate. Bring a lantern or tealight in a jam jar or as well as a torch and your own chair if you wish. (Warm clothes and wellies advisable!)
- Stewards will be present to help you, whether inside or outside.
- The service has been adapted so all can join in, whether inside or outside, and is shorter than in 'normal' times.

### **ORDER OF SERVICE**

**Fr Philip: WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

**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, O come, let us adore Him,**  
**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, 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!**

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning,  
Jesu, to Thee be glory given.

Word of the Father now in flesh appearing.

O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him

O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

- **READING:** Luke 1 v 26-38 *The Annunciation: The Angel Gabriel visits Mary to ask her to be mother of the Saviour*

### **BLESSING OF THE CHRISTMASS TREE**

#### **CAROL**

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 quake at the sight,  
Glory streams 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  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face, With the dawn of redeeming grace;  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth; Jesus, Lord at Thy birth.

- **READING:** Luke 2 v 1-7 *The Birth of Jesus at Bethlehem*

### **BLESSING OF THE CRIB**

#### **CAROL**

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.**

- **READING:** Luke 2 v 8-20 *Angels tell the shepherds about the birth of Jesus and they respond to the Good News.*

### **PRAYERS**

**Fr Philip:** Thank you, Lord, for all we have. Help us to share with those who have very little, especially all helped by St Martin's Norwich for the homeless and Christian Aid. Lord hear us **All: Lord graciously hear us.**

**Fr Philip:** Let us pray for all who are ill, lonely or unhappy at this time. Lord hear us. **All: Lord graciously hear us.**

**Fr Philip:** We pray for all healthcare workers and carers who work to relieve suffering in others; may they also find support and understanding. Lord hear us. **All: Lord graciously hear us.**

**Fr Philip:** With Mary and Joseph we rejoice at the birth of Jesus. May we welcome Christ as they did and see his face in all whom we meet. Lord hear us. **All: Lord graciously hear us.**

**Fr Philip:** Jesus, Word of the Father, you became man for us and raised us to new life. May all the dead, especially our departed loved ones, find rest and peace. Lord hear us. **All: Lord graciously hear us.**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER:**

**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.**

### **BLESSING**

#### **CAROL**

**Hark! the herald angels sing: "Glory to the newborn King!  
 Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."  
 Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies,**

With angelic hosts proclaim: "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! the herald angels sing: "Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ by highest Heav'n 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 newborn King!"

Hail the Heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Son of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n 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 newborn King!"

***Wishing you peace and joy this Christmas tide!***

*Thank you to all who have helped to make this service possible.*

**ALL OTHER CHRISTMASS WORSHIP IN CHURCH:**

25<sup>th</sup> Dec CHRISTMASS DAY: 9.30 Parish Mass

26<sup>th</sup> Dec HOLY FAMILY: 11.00 Parish Mass

Mass continues to be offered every day: see newsletter & website for times:

**[www.stmarysmendlesham.org.uk](http://www.stmarysmendlesham.org.uk)**

**DONATIONS**

Please give generously to Christian Aid, for clean water for people in South Sudan:

**EITHER** in collecting buckets as you leave

**OR** in CHURCH - in Christian Aid envelope (*on top of churn*)

**OR** online: [www.justgiving.com/mendleshamcribappeal21](http://www.justgiving.com/mendleshamcribappeal21)



- Also in church: SOCKBANK, collecting socks, hats, scarves, gloves & trainers for homeless people in Norwich supported by ST MARTIN'S HOUSING TRUST
- RED BOXES, collecting Food & toiletries for STOWMARKET FOODBANK