

**The Parish Church of
St. Anne, Ings**

Carols for Christmas



**Sunday 21 December 2008
at 2.30pm.**

ORDER OF SERVICE

Introduction

CHOIR: *Earth this glad day rejoices*

(Praetorius)

All: 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.

(Book I, p 100)

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 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 by,
we shall see him; but in heaven,
set at God's right hand on high;
where like stars his children crowned
all in white shall wait around.

Bidding Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

CHOIR: *The Lord at first did Adam make*

(Book II, p 198)

FIRST LESSON

The Angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary

All: 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.

(Book I, p 92)

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.

CHOIR: *Hymn for Christmas Day*

(from Handel - sheet)

SECOND LESSON

St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus

CHOIR: *Still, still, still*

(arr. Wilberg)

All: A child this day is born,
A child of high renown;
Most worthy of a sceptre,
A sceptre and a crown.
Nowell, nowell, nowell
Nowell sing all we may,
Because the King of all kings
Was born upon this day.

(Book III p 16)

These tidings shepherds heard
Whilst watching o'er their fold;
'Twas by an angel unto them
That night revealed and told.

Chorus

They praised the Lord our God,
And our celestial King;
All glory be in Paradise,
This heav'nly host do sing.

Chorus

All glory be to God,
That sitteth still on high,
With praises and with triumph great,
And joyful melody.

Chorus



THIRD LESSON

The shepherds go to the manger



CHOIR: *How far is it to Bethlehem?*

(Book II p 66)

All: 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.

(Book I p 2)

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.

FOURTH LESSON

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus



CHOIR: *Mid-winter*

(Chilcott)

All: 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, good will to men
from heaven's all-gracious King!'
The world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.

(Book I, p.59)

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.

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 give back the song
which now the angels sing.



FIFTH LESSON *(Please stand)*

St. John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation

Final Prayer and Blessing

The Lord be with you
And also with you.

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,
full of grace and truth.

**The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,
full of grace and truth.**

And we have seen his glory,
the glory as of a father's only son,
full of grace and truth.

Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit.

**The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,
full of grace and truth.**

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.

Amen.



All: O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, (Book 1, p 88)
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.

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, 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.



We would like to thank the members of Staveley
Choral Society, the readers and all who have helped
with preparations for this Service and our
refreshments afterwards.