

Welcome to Guildford Parish Church of St Nicolas

Christingle 2023



*Welcome to
Guildford St Nicolas Parish Church*

Make yourself at home.

*Toilets and baby changing are available in the
Parish Hall.*

*A collection will be taken at the end of the service
in aid of charity - the church included.*

Please stand for the Carol

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.

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.

At The Crib

Rector In the name the Father and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit:

All **Amen**

Rector The Lord be with you
All **And also with you**

*The Rector welcomes the congregation
The four Advent Wreath candles are lit
The Church lights are lowered*

The Collect

Rector Eternal God,
 who made this most holy night
 to shine with the brightness of your one true light:
 bring us, who have known
 the revelation of that light on earth,
 to see the radiance of your heavenly glory;
 through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
All Amen

*The animals and shepherds figures are placed in the stable.
Any children dressed as animals or shepherds are invited to the front of the church.*

Carol *Little donkey*

Little donkey, little donkey on the dusty road,
Got to keep on plodding onwards
with your precious load.
Been a long time, little donkey, through the
winter's night, Don't give up now, little donkey,
Bethlehem's in sight.

Ring out those bells tonight,
Bethlehem, Bethlehem.
Follow that star tonight, Bethlehem, Bethlehem.
Little donkey, little donkey, had a heavy day,
Little donkey, carry Mary safely on her way.



Hold your orange in one of your hands.

The orange represents the whole round world - small, precious and rather delicate. Like the infant Jesus, it needs care and to be taken care of. So hold it lightly - and don't drop it!!

Reading

The shepherds were afraid
they'd never seen an angel before.
And what was this about a baby being born?
A special baby who is Christ the Lord?
But the angel told them not to be afraid
but to be full of joy!
They will leave their sheep
and go and find the babe
wrapped in swaddling clothes
and lying in a manger.

Carol

While shepherds watched

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
The 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."

Reading

Long, long ago in the little town of Bethlehem
an innkeeper is busy looking after his guests.
His inn is full;.
Suddenly there's a knock on the door.
It is Mary and Joseph.
They are desperate.
Mary's baby is about to be born
but there are no rooms!
Only a cold and smelly animal shelter.
They could stay there if they wished.

Mary and Joseph are placed in the stable

Any children dressed as Mary or Joseph are invited to the front of the church

Reading

Far away from Bethlehem
in a distant land in the East
Wise men – perhaps they were Kings –
are studying the stars.
And tonight they have seen a new star appear.
It is a special star that tells of something special that
God has done.
They know that they have to follow this star to
wherever it leads them. But they are so far away.
They won't arrive till later on – at Epiphany.

*The three Magi are placed on their way to the
manger.*

*Any children dressed as Kings, wise men or Magi
are invited to the front of the church*



Place the FOUR sticks into your orange.
Now decorate your sticks with fruit and sweets

Carol

We three Kings

**We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.**

*O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.*

**Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never,
over us all to reign.**

O star of wonder, star of light ...

**Frankincense to offer have I;
incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising, voices raising,
worshiping God on high.**

O star of wonder, star of light ...

**Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone-cold tomb.**

O star of wonder, star of light ...

Reading

Everything is ready. The shepherds are coming.
The kings are on their way.
Mary and Joseph have found shelter.
This is where the star stops.
Everything is ready for the baby to be born –
Jesus, the Messiah that God has promised.



Place the candle in the foil and then into the top of the orange.

*A taper will come to you to light your candle. Please be careful.
When the church lights go out, please STAND.*

The infant Christ is placed in the manger during the Carol, Away in a manger

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 You, Lord Jesus
Look down from the sky
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Reader

Every year we remember the birth of this baby.
Every year we get ready to celebrate his coming.
Let us pray that we will be ready this year.

All

**Lord God by being born as Jesus
and becoming one of us
you show us how much you love the world.
Help us to be ready
to welcome Jesus into our lives,
to worship him as the shepherds did
and to be more like him day by day. Amen.**

The Blessing

Rector

May the joy of the angels,
the eagerness of the shepherds,
the perseverance of the wise men
the obedience of Mary and Joseph
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
rest on you and those you love this day
and always.

All

Amen.

*With thanks to Waitrose Guildford
for the donation of Oranges!*



*Have a very happy Christmas and be a blessing to
another at this most wonderful time of the year.
- Fr Neil*

Keep in contact ...

Area Dean of Guildford & Rector of St Nicolas
The Reverend Fr Neil Roberts
parishoffice@saintnics.com
01 483 564 526

Sunday Services

830am Early morning said Communion
every week

The traditional, quiet one

10am Sung Morning Service & Junior Church
every week

The family friendly communion one