

# **All Saints' Church, Thornton Hough**



## **A service of lessons and carols for Christmas**

***Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2020***

**Music before the service:**

Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen	Johannes Brahms
Chorale Prelude: Herr Gott, nun sei gepreiset (BWV 601)	
Noël (from Esquisses byzantines)	J.S. Bach
Chanson de la Vierge Pensive	Henri Mulet
The Holy Boy	Andrew Carter
	John Ireland

**Music after the service:**

Chorale Prelude: "In dulci jubilo" (Fantasia) (BWV 729)	J.S. Bach
Toccatà (from Organ Symphonie No 5 in F minor)	C.M. Widor

Please complete a **Track and Trace form** with your details and leave this in the basket as you leave church today.  
We need to collect the paper forms from all attendees even if you have also scanned the QR code on your phone.

## Christmas Services at All Saints' Church

### Christmas Eve / Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December

11:00pm Holy Communion for Christmas Night (Common Worship)

### Christmas Day / Friday 25<sup>th</sup> December

10:30am Family Holy Communion for Christmas Day  
(Common Worship)

### Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> December

No services at All Saints' Church

### Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2021

Holy Communion for Epiphany (Common Worship)

For contact information and details of all our services, please visit

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

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	A hearing loop is installed in our church. To use the loop please switch your hearing aid to the <b>T</b> position.
	There are no toilets in the church but there are toilets in the Parish Hall which is adjacent to the church car park. Please ask one of the sidespeople if you need directions or assistance.

***The service will proceed without announcements. Please stand for the sixth lesson but otherwise remain seated. Under Government regulations during the Covid-19 pandemic, the congregation is not allowed to sing in church.***

**Welcome and notices**

**A short period of silence for personal reflection.**

**1. Once in royal David's city**

*Words: C.F. Alexander;*

*Music: (Irby) H.J. Gauntlett, Harm. A.H. Mann, arr. Sir David Willcocks*

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.

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;  
When like stars his children crowned  
All in white shall wait around.

## **2. Bidding prayer**

Beloved in Christ, be it this Christmastide our care and delight to hear again the message of the angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and the Babe lying in a manger.

Therefore let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious redemption brought us by this Holy Child.

But first, let us pray for the needs of the whole world; for peace on earth and goodwill among all his people; for unity and brotherhood within the Church he came to build, and especially in this village of Thornton Hough and diocese of Chester.

And because this of all things would rejoice his heart, let us remember, in his name, the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed; the sick and them that mourn, the lonely and the unloved, the aged and the little children; all those who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Lastly, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore, and in a greater light, that multitude which no man can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom in the Lord Jesus we are for ever one.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself hath taught us:

**All Our Father, who 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 them that 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.**

3. **Adam lay ybounden**

*Words: Anon 15<sup>th</sup> century; Music: Boris Ord*

Adam lay ybounden, bounden in a bond;  
Four thousand winter thought he not too long.  
And all was for an apple, an apple that he took,  
As clerkes finden written in their book.  
Ne had the apple taken been, the apple taken been,  
Ne had never our lady abeen heaven e queen.  
Blessed be the time that apple taken was,  
Therefore we moun singen, *Deo gracias*

4. **First Lesson: Genesis 3:8-15**

*God announces in the Garden of Eden that the seed of woman shall bruise the serpent's head.*

And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden. And the Lord God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou? And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself. And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat? And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat. And the Lord God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat. And the Lord God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: and I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

5. **Sans day carol**

*Trad Cornish arr John Rutter*

Now the holly bears a berry as white as the milk,  
And Mary bore Jesus, all wrapped up in silk:  
*And Mary bore Jesus our Saviour for to be,  
And the first tree in the greenwood, it was the holly.*

*Holly! Holly!*

*And the first tree in the greenwood, it was the holly!*

Now the holly bears a berry as green as the grass,  
And Mary bore Jesus, who died on the cross:

Now the holly bears a berry as black as the coal,  
And Mary bore Jesus, who died for us all:

Now the holly bears a berry, as blood is it red,  
Then trust we our Saviour, who rose from the dead.

6. **Second Lesson: Luke 1:26-38**

*The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary*

And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, to a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: and he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren. For with God nothing shall be impossible. And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.

7. **A maiden most gentle**

*Words: Andrew Carter (from a text by the Venerable Bede);*

*Music: French trad. arr. Andrew Carter*

A maiden most gentle and tender we sing:  
Of Mary the mother of Jesus our King.  
Ave, Ave, Ave Maria.

How blest is the birth of her heavenly child,  
Who came to redeem us in Mary so mild,  
Ave, Ave, Ave Maria.

The archangel Gabriel foretold by his call  
The Lord of creation and Saviour of all,  
Ave, Ave, Ave Maria.

Three kings came to worship with gifts rich and rare,  
And marvelled in awe at the babe in her care.  
Ave, Ave, Ave Maria.

Rejoice and be glad at this Christmas we pray;  
Sing praise to the Saviour sing endless Ave.  
Ave, Ave, Ave Maria.  
Ave, Ave, Ave, Ave Maria.

8. **Third Lesson: Luke 2:1-7**

*St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.*

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Cæsar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judæa, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

9. **Away in a manger**

*Words: anon (American);*

*Music: W.J. Kirkpatrick arr Sir David Willcocks.*

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.

10. **Fourth Lesson: Luke 2:8-16**

*The shepherds go to the manger.*

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

11. **Torches**

*Words tr. J.B. Trend (from the Galician); Music John Joubert*

Torches, torches, run with torches  
All the way to Bethlehem!  
Christ is born and now lies sleeping;  
Come and sing your songs to him.

Ah Roro, Roro, my baby,  
Ah Roro my love Roro  
Sleep you well my heart's own darling  
While we sing you our Roro.

Sing my friends and make you merry  
Joy and mirth and joy again:  
Lo he lies, the King of heaven,  
Now and evermore. Amen

12. **Fifth Lesson: Matthew 2:1-11**

*The wise men are led by the star to Jesus*

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judæa in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judæa: for thus it is written by the prophet, And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.

Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.

When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And when they were come into

the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.

13. **In the bleak mid-winter**

*Words: Christina Rossetti; Music: Harold Darke*

In the bleak mid-winter  
Frosty wind made moan,  
Earth stood hard as iron,  
Water like a stone;  
Snow had fallen snow on snow;  
Snow on snow,  
In the bleak mid-winter  
Long ago.

Our God Heaven cannot hold him  
Nor earth sustain;  
Heaven and earth shall flee away  
When he comes to reign:  
In the bleak mid-winter  
A stable place sufficed  
The Lord God Almighty  
Jesus Christ.

Enough for him, whom cherubim  
Worship night and day,  
A breastful of milk  
And a mangerful of hay;  
Enough for him, whom angels  
Fall down before,  
The ox and ass and camel  
Which adore.

What can I give him,  
Poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd  
I would bring a lamb,  
If I were a Wise Man  
I would do my part,  
Yet what I can I give him,  
Give my heart.

**Please stand.**

14. **Sixth Lesson: John 1:1-14**

*St. John unfolds the great mystery of the incarnation.*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father), full of grace and truth.

**Please sit.**

15. **O Come All Ye Faithful**

*Words: tr. F. Oakeley, W.T. Brooke and others;*

*Music: (Adeste Fideles) J.F. Wade arr. Sir David Willcocks*

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...*

Sing, choirs of angels,

Sing in exultation,

Sing all ye citizens of heav'n above;

Glory to God

In the highest:

*O come...*

## 16. Prayers

*Prayers for the world and parish concluding with the collect for Christmas Eve said by all.*

**All: Almighty God, you make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as we joyfully receive him as our redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold him when he shall come to be our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

## 17. A Christmas Blessing

*Words: Church of Ireland Book of Common Prayer (adapted)*

*Music: Philip Stopford*

May the joy of the angels,

the gladness of the shepherds,

the worship of the wise men and the peace of the Christ child

be yours,

be yours this Christmas.

May Christ, who by his incarnation,

gathered into one all things earthly, all things heavenly,

and fill you with joy and peace.

And the blessing of God the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit

be with you and remain with you always. Amen.

## 18. The Blessing