

All remain standing for

**Carol: Hark! the herald angels sing**

Hark! the herald angels sing  
Glory to the new-born King;  
Peace on earth and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled:  
Joyful all ye nations rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies,  
With th'angelic host proclaim  
Christ is born in Bethlehem.

*Hark! The herald angels sing  
Glory to the new-born 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 God-head see,  
Hail th' incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as man with man to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel.

*Hark! The herald angels sing  
Glory to the new-born king.*

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
Risen 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 new-born king.*

*Mendelssohn 15 BCB*

**Organ Voluntary: In Dulci Jubilo BWV729**

*J.S. Bach*

**We wish you all  
a very Happy and Holy Christmas  
and every Blessing for the New Year**

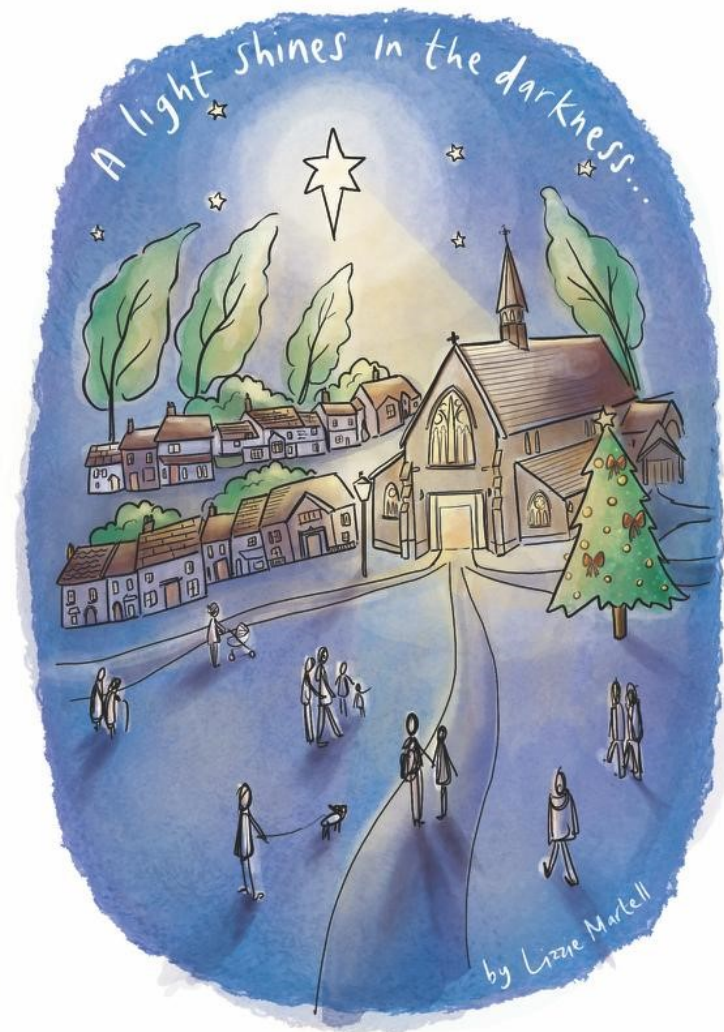
**Thank you to all our Key Workers who have given so much  
to keep us going during this difficult year.**

*A Retiring Collection - both in cash and contactless payment will be taken to our  
Christmas charities: DENS, The Hospice of St Francis, and PCC funds. If you are able  
to GiftAid your donation be enhanced by 25%.*



# The Parish of Boxmoor

St John's Boxmoor,  
St Stephen's Chaulden & St Francis' Hammerfield



## A FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

**Sunday 20 December 2020**

**6.30pm**

## Welcome to St John's Church for this traditional Service of Lessons and Carols.

Thank you for joining us this evening and booking your tickets. Our manner of celebrating Christmas may be different this year but the message remains the same. Once again we will hear, in word and music, of the gift of God incarnate in the Babe of Bethlehem. Sadly Covid restrictions mean you need to wear a face covering throughout the service and observe social distancing. Regrettably congregational singing inside is currently prohibited, so the choir will lead our musical offering.

Our readings this year are to be given by Key Workers in recognition of their contribution to our community during these days of pandemic.

A Retiring Collection - both in cash and contactless payment will be taken to our Christmas charities: DENS, The Hospice of St Francis, and PCC funds. If you are able to GiftAid your donation be enhanced by 25%.

Finally, thank you to our choir and musicians for leading us in our worship this evening.

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## CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT ST JOHN'S

### 23 December & Christmas Eve:

- 2.30pm **Christingle Service** (*entry from 2pm*)
- 4.30pm **Christingle Service** (*entry from 4pm*)
- 6.30pm **Carols at the Crib**
- 11.30pm **Midnight Mass** (*Christmas Eve only*)

### Christmas Day:

- 10.00am **Parish Christmas Eucharist**

*Admission to all above Services is via Free Ticket obtainable from the Parish website*

[www.stjohnsboxmoor.org.uk/christmas](http://www.stjohnsboxmoor.org.uk/christmas)

*Recordings of our Services can be found on our website for those unable to join us physically this Christmas*

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**Director of Music:** Keith Beniston  
**Organ:** Nicholas King  
**The St John's Ensemble:** Miffy Hirsch (*leader*)  
*Orchestrations:* Keith Beniston

### Music before the Service:

Wachet auf, ruft' uns die Stimme, BWV645 *J.S. Bach*

*Hymns taken from The Boxmoor Carol Booklet (BCB).*

*Readings taken from NRSV Bible. Reproduced under CCL Licence number: 74516*

God of God,  
Light of light,  
Lo! He abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
Very God,  
Begotten not created:

*O come, ...*

Child, for us sinners  
Poor and in the manger,  
Fain we embrace thee, with awe and love;  
Who would not love thee,  
Loving us so dearly?

*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, ...*

*Adeste Fideles 27 BCB*

*All remain standing for*

### The Collect for Christmas Eve

O God, who makest us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of thy only Son, Jesus Christ: grant that, as we joyfully receive him as our redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold him, when he shall come to be our judge; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end.

**Amen.**

### The Blessing

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 God's gift to you this Christmas and always;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

All stand for

**Carol: O little town of Bethlehem**

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 tonight.	How silently, how silently, The wondrous gift is giv'n! So God imparts to human hearts The blessings of his heav'n. No ear may hear his coming; But in this world of sin, Where meek souls will receive him, Still the dear Christ enters in.
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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 wond'ring love.	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.
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Forest Green 29 BCB

All remain standing for

**Ninth Lesson: St John 1: 1–14** *St John unfolds the mystery of the Incarnation*  
*read by The Vicar*

All sit for

**Choir: Ding Dong merrily on high**

Arr. Mack Wilberg

All stand for

**Carol: O come, all ye faithful**

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!*

**ORDER OF SERVICE**

**Welcome and Notices**

*Silence is kept. The choir then sings*

**Choir: Silent Night**

*Please stand at the beginning of verse 3 for*

**Carol: Once in royal David's city**

*1 (Solo)*

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

*2 (Choir)*

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.

*3 (All)*

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.

*4*

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.

*5*

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.

Irby 32 BCB

All remain standing for

**The Bidding and 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.**

All sit for

**First Lesson: Genesis 3: 8–15** *The Fall*  
read by Dr Tim Maslen

At the end of each reading:

*For the Word of the Lord*

**Thanks be to God**

**Choir: Adam lay y'bounden** *Boris Ord*

**Second Lesson: Genesis 22: 15–18** *The Promise to Abraham*  
read by Tegan Davies, pet shop employee

**Choir: People look East** *Arr. Alistair Lilley*

**Third Lesson: Isaiah 9: 2, 6–7** *Isaiah foretells Christ's birth and kingdom*  
read by John Worley, Funeral Director

All stand for

**Carol: See amid the winter snow**

See amid the winter's snow, Born for us on earth below; See the tender Lamb appears, Promis'd from eternal years: <i>Hail, thou ever blessed morn; Hail, redemption's happy dawn; Sing through all Jerusalem, Christ is born in Bethlehem.</i>	Sacred infant, all divine, What a tender love was thine, Thus to come from highest bliss Down to such a world as this: <i>Hail, thou ever blessed ...</i>
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Lo, within a manger lies He who built the starry skies; He who, throned in height sublime, Sits amid the cherubim: <i>Hail, thou ever blessed ...</i>	Teach, O teach us, Holy Child, By thy face so meek and mild, Teach us to resemble thee, In thy sweet humility: <i>Hail, thou ever blessed ...</i>
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*Humility 34 BCP*

All sit for

**Fourth Lesson: Isaiah 11: 1–4a, 6–9** *The peace Christ will bring is foreshown*  
read by Sharon Clark, Head of In-patient Unit,  
*The Hospice of St Francis*

**Choir: O come, O come, Emmanuel** *John Rutter*

**Fifth Lesson: St Luke 1: 26–38** *The angel appears to Mary*  
read by Fr Brian McMahon, Parish Priest, St Mary & St Joseph's Church  
within the Roman Catholic Parish of Hemel Hempstead West

**Choir: A maiden most gentle** *Arr. Andrew Carter*

**Sixth Lesson: St Matthew 1: 18–23** *The birth of Jesus*  
read by Sue Proehl, pharmacy assistant, Byron's Pharmacy

**Choir: All bells in paradise** *John Rutter*

**Seventh Lesson: St Luke 2: 8–16** *The shepherds go to the manger*  
read by Christopher Wilson, Headmaster, Lockers Park Prep School

All stand for

**Carol: While shepherds watched their flocks by night**

While shepherds watched their flocks by night, All seated on the ground, The angel of the Lord came down, And glory shone around.	'The heavenly Babe you there shall find To human view displayed, All meanly wrapped in swathing bands, And in a manger laid.'
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'Fear not,' said he (for mighty dread Had seized their troubled mind); 'Glad tidings of great joy I bring To you and all mankind.	Thus spake the Seraph; and forthwith Appeared a shining throng Of angels praising God, who thus Addressed their joyful song:
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'To you in David's town this day Is born of David's line A saviour, who is Christ the Lord; And this shall be the sign:	'All glory be to God on high, And on the earth be peace; Good will henceforth from heav'n to men Begin, and never cease.'
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*Winchester Old 47 BCB*

All sit for

**Eighth Lesson: St Matthew 2: 1–12** *The wise men are led by the star to Jesus*  
read by Ray Ashley-Brown, Chaplain, The Hospice of St Francis