

**Welcome to  
St Botolph's Church  
Carol Service**



**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December  
10.30am**

[stbotolphs.org](http://stbotolphs.org)

# Welcome

## *Lighting the advent candles*

God of love, you sent your Son, Jesus, to light the way for all who walk in darkness.

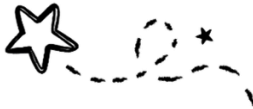
**May the light of his hope, peace, joy and love shine bright in us as we get ready to welcome him on Christmas day and every day. Amen.**

*Carol* – Joy to the world; the Lord is come;  
Let Earth receive her King;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room,  
And Heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the Earth, the Saviour reigns,  
Let men their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains,  
Repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make his blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of his righteousness,  
And wonders of his love.



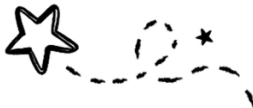
*Reading – Luke 1:26-38*

*Carol* – 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.

For Christ is born of Mary;  
and, gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep  
their watch of wond'ring love.  
O morning stars, together  
proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the King,  
and peace to men on earth.

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.

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!



*Reading – Luke 2:1, 3-7*

*Introducing a special baby*

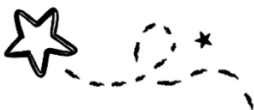
*Reading – John 1:1-5, 14*

**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.  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
heav'nly 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!**

**Silent night! Holy night!  
Wondrous star, lend thy light;  
with the angels let us sing  
"Alleluia" to our King:  
"Christ the Saviour is born!  
Christ the Saviour is born."**



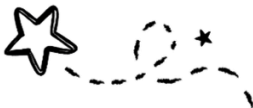
*Reading – Luke 2:8-14*

**Carol – Angels from the realms of glory,  
wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
ye who sang creation's story  
now proclaim Messiah's birth:**

***Come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn king.***

**Shepherds, in the field abiding,  
watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing;  
yonder shines the infant light:**

**Sages, leave your contemplations,  
brighter visions beam afar;  
seek the great desire of nations;  
ye have seen his natal star:**



*Reading – Luke 2:15-20*

**Carol – While shepherds watched their flocks by night,  
all seated on the ground,  
an angel of the Lord came down,  
and glory shone around.**

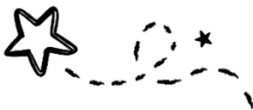
**"Fear not," said he for mighty dread  
had seized their troubled mind  
"glad tidings of great joy I bring  
to you and all mankind.**

**"To you, in David's town, this day  
is born of David's line  
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;  
and this shall be the sign:**

**"The heavenly babe you there shall find  
to human view displayed,  
all simply wrapped in swaddling clothes  
and in a manger laid."**

**Thus spoke the angel. Suddenly  
appeared a shining throng  
of angels praising God, who thus  
addressed their joyful song:**

**"All glory be to God on high,  
and to the earth be peace;  
to those on whom his favour rests  
goodwill shall never cease."**



*Reading – Matt 2:1-11*

**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;**

**Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;  
sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!**



*Prayer – please join in with the actions*

*Blessing*

**Please stay for Christmas nibbles  
in the hall at the end of the corridor**

# Join us again this Christmas

Christmas Eve – 6.30pm Christmas Communion at St Botolph's

Christmas Day – 10.00am Christmas Family Communion  
a joint celebration at Christ Church, Ireton Road

29<sup>th</sup> December – 10.30am Morning Worship  
a joint celebration at Castle Methodist Church

5<sup>th</sup> January – 10.30am Morning Worship at St Botolph's  
12<sup>th</sup> January – 10.30am Holy Communion at St Botolph's  
19<sup>th</sup> January – 10.30am Morning Worship at St Botolph's  
26<sup>th</sup> January – 10.30am Holy Communion at St Botolph's



Giving is an important part of our worship.

Did you know, one of the easiest ways to give is by using the Parish Giving Scheme?  
<https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/colchester-st-botolph-colchester/>

stbotolphs.org - 01206 542307

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