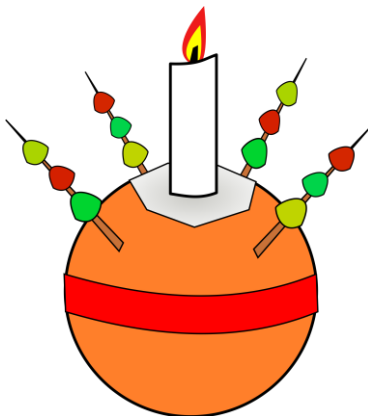


**THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARY,  
PULBOROUGH**



# **The Christingle Service with the Lighting of the Pulborough Star**

**4pm on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2023**

## **The First Sunday of Advent**

We are very grateful that that the leaflets today  
have been generously sponsored.

**“Praying for the safety of children  
the world over”**

***In the event of a fire or emergency in the Church, the exits  
available are: the West Door, the North Door, the South Door in the  
Chancel and the door through the Vestry. Please leave the building by  
an exit nearest to you.***

*Organ music: "Courtly Dances" – Tylman Susato.*

✠ In the name of the Father, and  
of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

*Fr. Paul introduces the Service with words of welcome*

**OPENING HYMN: O&N 406**  
*Fred Pratt Green 1903 -2000)*

1 Long ago, prophets knew  
Christ would come, born a Jew,  
come to make all things new;  
bear his people's burden,  
freely love and pardon.  
*Refrain:*  
*Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!*  
*Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!*  
*When he comes, when he comes,*  
*who will make him welcome?*

2 God in time, God in man,  
this is God's timeless plan:  
He will come, as a man,  
born himself of woman,  
God divinely human. *Refrain*

3 Mary hail! Though afraid,  
she believed, she obeyed.  
In her womb, God is laid:  
till the time expected,  
nurtured and protected: *Refrain*

4 Journey ends! Where afar  
Bethlehem shines, like a star,  
stable door stands ajar.  
unborn Son of Mary,  
Saviour, do not tarry!

*Refrain:*

*Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!*

*Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!*

*Jesus comes!*

*Jesus comes!*

*We will make him welcome!*

## THE ORANGE REPRESENTS THE EARTH



### The First Reading: Psalm 104 v24-30

O LORD, how manifold are your works!

In wisdom you have made them all;  
the earth is full of your creatures.

Yonder is the sea, great and wide,  
creeping things innumerable are there,  
living things both small and great.

There go the ships,  
and Leviathan that you formed to sport in it.

These all look to you

to give them their food in due season;  
when you give to them, they gather it up;  
when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.

When you hide your face, they are dismayed;  
when you take away their breath, they die  
and return to their dust.

When you send forth your spirit, they are created;  
and you renew the face of the ground.

- 1 He's got the whole world in his hand.  
He's got the whole world in his hand.  
He's got the whole world in his hand.  
He's got the whole world in his hand.
- 2 He's got you and me, brother, in his hand....x3  
He's got the whole world in his hand.
- 3 He's got you and me, sister, in his hand....x3  
He's got the whole world in his hand.
- 4 He's got the little tiny baby in his hand....x3  
He's got the whole world in his hand.
- 5 He's got ev'rybody here in his hand..... x3  
He's got the whole world in his hand.

### Prayers of Thanksgiving

Eternal God, we thank you for your light and your truth.  
We praise you for your fatherly care  
in creating a universe which proclaims your glory.  
Inspire us to worship you, the creator of all,  
and let your light shine upon our world.  
God of life: **hear our prayer.**

We thank you for the vastness of the universe  
and the mysteries of space.  
We pray for all scientists and astronomers  
who extend the boundaries of our knowledge.  
As we contemplate the wonder of the heavens,  
confirm us in the truth that every human being is  
known and loved by you.  
God of life: **hear our prayer.**

We thank you for the beauty of the earth,  
for the diversity of land and sea, for the resources of the earth.  
Give us the will to cherish this planet  
and to use its riches for the good and welfare of all.  
God of life: **hear our prayer.**

We thank you for the warmth of the sun,  
the light of the moon, the glory of the stars.  
We praise you for the formations of clouds,  
the radiance of dawn and sunset.  
Save us from wasting or abusing the energy  
on which all life depends.  
Open our eyes to behold your beauty,  
and our lips to praise your name.  
God of life: **hear our prayer.**

*Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895)*

***All things bright and beautiful,  
all creatures great and small,  
all things wise and wonderful  
the Lord God made them all.***

- 1     **Each little flower that opens,  
each little bird that sings,  
he made their glowing colours,  
he made their tiny wings:           *Refrain***
- 3     **The cold wind in the winter,  
the pleasant summer sun,  
the ripe fruits in the garden,  
he made them every one:           *Refrain***
- 5     **He gave us eyes to see them,  
and lips that we might tell  
how great is God almighty,  
who has made all things well:       *Refrain***

## **The Second Reading: Ecclesiasticus 16. v24 to end**

When the Lord created his works from the beginning,  
and, in making them, determined their boundaries,  
he arranged his works in an eternal order,  
and their dominion for all generations.

They neither hunger nor grow weary,  
and they do not abandon their tasks.

They do not crowd one another, and they never disobey his word.

Then the Lord looked upon the earth,  
and filled it with his good things.

With all kinds of living beings he covered its surface,  
and into it they must return.

We thank you for the teeming life of the seas,  
and the flight of the birds.

Help us to protect the environment  
so that all life may flourish.

God of life: **hear our prayer.**

We rejoice in the variety of animal life.

Grant us grace to treat all animals with respect and care;  
to protect endangered species,  
to preserve the variety of habitats,  
and to honour the delicate balance of nature.

God of life: **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the human family.

We exult in its diversity and giftedness,  
we repent of its sins, divisions and violence.

By the power of your Spirit, restore your image within us,  
through Christ who came to remake us  
by his death and resurrection.

God of life: **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, you have filled the world with beauty:  
open our eyes to behold your gracious hand in all your works;  
that, rejoicing in your whole creation,  
we may learn to serve you with gladness;  
for the sake of him through whom all things were made,  
your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **THE CANDLE REPRESENTS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD**



### **The Third Reading: Isaiah 9. 2,3,6,7.**

The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
on them light has shined.  
You have multiplied the nation,  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.  
For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders;  
and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
His authority shall grow continually,  
and there shall be endless peace  
for the throne of David and his kingdom.  
He will establish and uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time onwards and for evermore.  
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

**HYMN: 10,000 Reasons**

*Matt Redman*

**Chorus**

***Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul***

***Worship His holy name***

***Sing like never before, O my soul***

***I'll worship Your holy name***

- 1 **The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning  
It's time to sing Your song again  
Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me  
Let me be singing when the evening comes *Chorus***
  
- 2 **You're rich in love and You're slow to anger  
Your name is great and Your heart is kind  
For all Your goodness, I will keep on singing  
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find *Chorus***

**Prayers of Intercession**

For all cities, towns and villages,  
and for their well-being and prosperity,  
let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the rural economy and for its regeneration,  
let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who tend the countryside  
and preserve its order and beauty,  
let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For traditional rural skills and crafts  
and for those who exercise them,  
let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

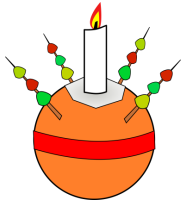
For all farms, all who work them,  
and for the whole farming industry,  
let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**



For those who make farming policy,  
and for all with authority in government,  
let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

## 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.**



## Blessing and Presentation of Christingles

Hymn: O&N 399  
Graham Kendrick (b 1950)

1 Like a candle flame  
Flick'ring small in our darkness  
Uncreated light  
Shines through infant eyes

*God is with us, alleluia  
God is with us, alleluia  
Come to save us, alleluia  
Come to save us  
Alleluia!*

2 Stars and angels sing  
Yet the earth sleeps in shadows  
Can this tiny spark  
Set a world on fire? *Refrain*

3 Yet his light shall shine  
From our lives, Spirit blazing  
As we touch the flame  
Of his holy fire *Refrain*

**HYMN: The Christingle begins with an orange**

1 The Christingle begins with an orange,  
telling us of the world God made.  
For creation is full of his glory;  
all around we see his love displayed.  
*Sing Christingle! Sing Christingle!  
Sing Christingle, it's the light of Christ.  
Sing Christingle! Sing Christingle!  
Sing Christingle, light of Christ.*

2 Every year we give thanks for the seasons,  
and the fruits of the earth to share.  
The Christingle is here to remind us  
that the love of God is everywhere. (*Chorus*)

3 God of love, we give thanks now for Jesus;  
we remember his birth again.  
But the red ribbon round the Christingle  
tells the story of his cross and pain. (*Chorus*)

4 To complete the Christingle: a candle,  
shining out in the darkest night.  
Jesus promised to lead us and guide us;  
Come and celebrate the world's true light! (*Chorus*)

*Fr. Paul says:*

Jesus said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.' John 8. v12

Lord Jesus, light of the world, you came down from heaven and entered our world as a child, born of the Virgin Mary.

**Open our eyes to see your light today.**

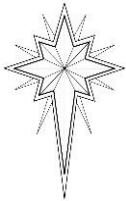
Lord Jesus, from the crib to the cross

you stood among the people who had the least and suffered the most

**Open our eyes to see your light today.**

Lord Jesus, you promise that when two or three are gathered in your name, you are there in the midst of them.

**Open our eyes to see your light today**



## **THE PULBOROUGH STAR REPRESENTS THE STAR OF BETHLEHEM**

### **The Fourth Reading: Matthew 2. V9-11a**

When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

*Fr. Paul reveals the person who will be switching on the Pulborough Star this year after which we all sing the following refrain as directed.*

**O Star of wonder, star of night,  
Star with royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading still proceeding,  
Guide us to thy perfect light.**

**The Blessing**

*As we leave the church and gather in the churchyard we sing*

***This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.  
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.  
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,  
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.***

*There will be a **retiring collection** in aid of the **Children's Society**.  
We also encourage you to take a **candle collection box** and fill it  
with donations during Advent remembering those young people who  
are not as greatly blest as we are. Please return to school or church in  
January, full to the brim!!*

*Organ music: "Rondeau" – J.J.Mouret.*

*We all move outside the Church and form up in the  
Churchyard to see the Pulborough Star switched on*

*Please take this service leaflet home with you.*

\*\*\*\*\*

**Christmas at the Parish Church**  
**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December –**  
6pm Village Carol Service  
**Advent 4/Christmas Eve**  
4pm Crib Service -11pm Midnight Mass  
**Christmas Day – (No 8am Service)**  
10am The Parish Eucharist