

PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARY, PULBOROUGH



CHRISTMAS DAY

Thursday 25th December, 2025

10.00am THE PARISH EUCHARIST

We are very grateful that the Service leaflet have been sponsored.

**'Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given'.
Wishing you a very Merry Christmas.**

The Hindman Family

Please take this leaflet home with you at the end of the Service

WELCOME TO OUR CHRISTMAS MORNING CELEBRATION

Celebrant & Preacher: Fr. Paul
Organist: Tony Hancock
Setting: Thorne
Reading: Ann Kaiser
Intercessor: Hannah Holloway
Ministers of Communion: David Hayes and Graham Allfrey

. 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.

*If you feel able to make a donation during the offertory hymn and you are a UK taxpayer, please use and complete the details on the Gift Aid white envelope you will find in your service leaflet. We also have **contactless facilities** available by the organ at the back of the church. Thank you.*



*Opening organ music: – “The Courtly Dances”
Tylman Susato.*

Please stand when the bell is rung

**The Entrance Hymn: Hymn: NEH 30
Adeste fideles – Latin 18th Century
Tr. Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880),) and others**

- 1 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!
- 2 God of God,
Light of light,
Lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
very God,
begotten, not created: *Chorus*
- The altar party pauses at the Crib where a special prayer*
- 3 See how the shepherds
summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;
we too will thither
bend our joyful footsteps: *Chorus*
- 4 Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above:
'Glory to God in the highest:' *Chorus*

**5 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given:
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing:** *Chorus*

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

The Greeting

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
and also with you.

The Advent Wreath

Joy to the world!
The Lord has come!

The last candle on the Advent Wreath is lit after which we say together:

Jesus is the light of the world.
A light no darkness can ever put out.

We sing:
Advent candles tell their story
On this Christmas Day.
Those who waited for God's glory:
They prepared the way.
Christ is with us; loving, giving, in us living, here today!

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On this Christmas Day.**

Those who waited for God's glory:

They prepared the way.

Christ is with us; loving, giving, in us living, here today!

Fr Paul introduces the day's celebration and invites people to make an act of penitence

The Prayers of Penitence

Lord Jesus you are mighty God and Prince of Peace

Lord have mercy

Lord have mercy

Lord Jesus you are Son of God and Son of Mary

Christ have mercy

Christ have mercy

Lord Jesus you are Word made flesh and splendour of the Father

Lord Have mercy

Lord have mercy

May Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen**

The Thorne Gloria

Glory to God, Glory to God, glory to God in the Highest.

**Glory to God in the Highest, and
peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, Heav'nly King,
Almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

Glory to God, Glory to God, glory to God in the Highest.

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away
the sin of the world; have mercy on us;
You are seated at the right hand of the
Father: receive our prayer.**

Glory to God, Glory to God, glory to God, in the Highest.

**For you alone are the Holy one,
You alone are the Lord,
You alone are the most high,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the
Glory of God the Father.**

Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God in the Highest

The Collect for the Day

Almighty God,
you have given us your only-begotten Son
to take our nature upon him
and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin:
grant that we, who have been born again
and made your children by adoption and grace,
may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Please sit

The First Reading: Hebrews 1 v 1-4

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

The Gradual Hymn: O&N 148

George Ratcliffe Woodward (1848-1934)

- 1 **Ding! dong! merrily on high
In heav'n the bells are ringing;
Ding! dong! verily the sky
Is riv'n with angel singing.
Gloria! Hosanna in excelsis!
*Gloria! Hosanna in excelsis!***
- 2 **E'en so here below, below,
Let steeple bells be swungen,
And 'io, io, io!'
By priest and people sungen: *Chorus***
- 3 **Pray you, dutifully prime
Your matin chime, ye ringers!
May you beautifully rime
Your evetime song, ye singers! *Chorus***

The Gospel Reading: John 1: 1-14

The Lord be with you

And also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

Glory to you, O Lord

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please sit

The Homily

Please stand

The Creed

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation he came
down from heaven, was incarnate from
the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the
Scriptures; he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is
worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of
sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of Intercession

Please kneel or sit

Those who are now in need of healing:

*Patrick Carr, Fr Barry Smart, Toni Hayes, Sarah and James
Ross, Carole Brooke, Richard Cromwell, Jim Crowley, Charlie
Goldsmith, Ian Cockburn, Frances Usher-Smith and Matt*

Pray to rest in peace: *Jeanette Brickell, Dinah Hilton and
Vivienne Rathband*

Anniversary of death: *Ivy Risdon, Elaine Crossley,
Margaret Holloway, Carmel Williams*

The following responses may be used

Lord in your mercy;

Hear our prayer.

The Intercessions conclude with the following:

Merciful Father,

Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,

Our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

Please stand

Fr. Paul introduces the Peace with the following words

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

The Peace



(During this hymn a collection will be taken in aid of ‘Turning Tides’, a local charity supporting the homeless. If you are a tax payer use a white Gift-Aid envelope and fill in the details on the front of the envelope. Thank you.

**The Offertory Hymn: O&N 36
James Montgomery (1771-1854)**

**1 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,
Christ, the new-born King.
Come and worship,
Worship Christ, the new-born King.***

2 **Shepherds, in the field abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
Yonder shines the infant Light: *Refrain***

3 **Sages, leave your contemplations;
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations;
Ye have seen his natal star: *Refrain***

4 **Saints before the altar bending,
Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending,
In his temple shall appear: *Refrain***

5 **Though an infant now we view him,
He shall fill his Father's throne,
Gather all the nations to him;
Every knee shall then bow down: *Refrain***

Pray brothers and sisters that my sacrifice and yours may
be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

**May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands, for the
praise and glory of his name, for our good, and the
good of all his holy Church.**

Prayer over The Gifts

Lord, let this day's Eucharist unite us to Christ, in whose self-offering you have brought us reconciliation with the fullness of worship and praise.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Lift up your hearts
We lift them to the Lord

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God
It is right to give thanks and praise

Fr. Paul continues with the prayer until all sing together:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Fr. Paul continues until the following is used:

Great is the mystery of faith,
**Christ has died
Christ is risen
Christ will come again.**

*Fr. Paul continues and leads into the conclusion of the prayer to which all say: **Amen***

Please kneel or sit

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.**

The Breaking of the Bread

**We break this bread
to share in the Body of Christ.
Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one Bread**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.**



The Giving of Communion

Fr. Paul issues the invitation to communion in these or very similar words:

Jesus is the Lamb of God

who takes away the sin of the world.

Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

*Communion is administered in both kinds. Receiving consecrated wine directly from the chalice is offered for those who feel comfortable to do this. **Please do not dip the consecrated wafer into the chalice.** Please wait to be directed to communion*

Communion Hymn: NEH 22

Anonymous – Philadelphia 1883

- 1 **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.**
- 2 **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.**
- 3 **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.**

Communion Hymn: NEH 28
Christina G Rossetti (1830-1894)

- 1 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.**

- 2 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.**

- 3 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.**

4 **Angels and archangels
May have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim
Throngèd the air;
But only His mother,
In her maiden bliss,
Worshipped the Beloved
With a kiss.**

5 **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.**

The Prayer after Communion

God our Father,
whose Word has come among us
in the Holy Child of Bethlehem:
may the light of faith illumine our hearts
and shine in our words and deeds;
through him who is Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

The following prayer is then said by all:

**Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son
Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and
bodies to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen**

Please stand

The Blessing

The Lord be with you.
and also with you.

The Dismissal

Go in the peace of Christ
Thanks be to God.

The Recessional Hymn: Hymn: NEH 26
Charles Wesley, (1707-1788), George Whitfield (1714-1770),
Martin Madan (1726-1790)

- 1** **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 the angelic host proclaim,
'Christ is born in Bethlehem.'

Hark, the herald-angels sing
glory to the new-born King.

- 2** **Christ, by highest heaven adored,**
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a Virgin's womb!
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see:
hail, the incarnate Deity!
pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.

Refrain

**3 Hail, the heaven-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. *Refrain***

*Concluding organ music: "Tuba Tune"
Reginald Porter-Brown.*



From Fr Paul.....

Fr Paul would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their seasonal greetings and cards.
It is much appreciated.





Prayer of Saint Richard of Chichester

Thanks be to thee, my Lord Jesus Christ,
for all the benefits thou hast given me,
for all the pains and insults thou hast borne for me.
O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother,
may I know thee more clearly,
love thee more dearly,
and follow thee more nearly, day by day.
Amen.

