

# **Welcome to St Mark's Church Carols by Firelight**

**with the Almac Bisley Brass Band**

**Monday 22 December 2025 6pm**

*You are invited to stand for the carols and sit for the readings, address and prayers.*

*The retiring collection will be split between St Mark's and the York Road Project. Use collection box or [click here](#) to give*

*York Road Project*

*A charity that provides emergency and longer-term accommodation and support for those experiencing homelessness in Woking.*

*[yorkroadproject.org.uk](http://yorkroadproject.org.uk)*

**Welcome – Rev Lucy Bush, Curate**

**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, let us adore Him . . .*  
**Sing, choirs of angels,**  
**Sing in exultation,**  
**Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;**  
**Glory to God in the highest**  
*O come, let us adore Him . . .*

**Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,**  
**Born for our salvation,**  
**Jesus, to Thee be glory given;**

Word of the Father

Now in flesh appearing:

*O come, let us adore Him . . .*

*Translated by Frederick Oakeley, alt..*

*Opening Prayer*

***Reading 1*** The Messiah to be born in  
Bethlehem – *Micah 5: 2-4*

*Andy Holcombe, St Mark's Church*

**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 meek 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.

*Cecil F Alexander*

***Reading 2*** God's purpose is explained to  
Joseph – *Matt 1: 18 – 25*  
*Cllr Amanda Boote, Mayor of Woking*

Joy to the world  
the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart  
prepare Him room  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven,  
and heaven and nature sing!

Joy to the earth,  
the Saviour reigns!  
Your sweetest songs employ  
While fields and streams  
and hills and plains  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world  
with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
the glories of His righteousness,

the wonders of His love,  
the wonders of His love,  
the wonders,  
the wonders of His love.

*Isaac Watt*

***Reading 3*** Jesus is born in Bethlehem –  
*Luke 2: 1–7*

*Sharon Lance, Community Garden &  
Community Fridge Volunteer*

**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 You, Lord Jesus!  
Look down from the sky  
And stay by my side  
until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus:  
I ask You to stay  
Close by me forever  
and love me, I pray;  
Bless all the dear children  
in Your tender care,  
And fit us for heaven  
to live with You there.

Verses 1 & 2 unknown Verse 3 J T McFarland

*Reading 4* Shepherds visit the baby  
Jesus – *Luke 2: 8 – 20*  
*Chris Heisig, St Mark's Church*

**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.*

Shepherds in the fields abiding,  
Watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing;  
Yonder shines the Infant Light:  
*Come and worship . . .*

Sages, leave your contemplations;  
Brighter visions beam afar;  
Seek the great Desire of Nations;  
Ye have seen His natal star;  
*Come and worship . . .*

Saints before the altar bending,  
Watching long in hope and fear,



Suddenly the Lord, descending,  
In His temple shall appear:  
*Come and worship . . .*

*James Montgomery*

*Poem 'Advent', by Nicola Slee*

*Mary Shuttle, Community Fridge Volunteer*

Under the words you are my silence,  
under the river you are my rock,  
under the singing you are the voiceless  
sighing,  
under the storm's tumult, you are my  
ship's safe dock.

Under the winter you are the new season  
turning,  
under the darkness you are the  
approaching morning,  
under the year's ending you are an  
unseen beginning,  
under our Advent you are the Christchild  
aborning.

*Reading 5*      God became human and  
lived among us – *John 1:1–14*  
*Sally Holcombe, St Mark's Church*

**In the bleak midwinter, 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.**

**Angels and archangels may have  
gathered there,  
Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air**

But His mother only, in her maiden  
bliss,  
Worshipped the Beloved with a kiss.

What can I give Him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would give a lamb;  
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;  
Yet what I can I give Him give my heart.

*Christina G. Rosetti*

*Address* Rev Jonathan Thomas, Vicar

*Prayers*

*The Lord's Prayer:*

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name.  
Your kingdom come,  
your will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins**

as we forgive those who sin against  
us.

Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power and the  
glory

are yours now and for ever.

Amen

**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!'*

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.

*Hark! the herald angels sing:  
'Glory to the new-born King.'*

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 men 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.'*

*Charles Wesley and others*

*Blessing*

*You are warmly invited to stay for refreshments afterwards.*

All at St Mark's wish you a very **Happy Christmas**

**Other Christmas services**

Christmas Day 11am **All-age Communion**

28 December 11am **United service, St Mark's**

**Regular services at St Mark's** *All welcome*

Every Sunday 11am

More details [www.stpeterwoking.org](http://www.stpeterwoking.org)

**Be curious - Try Alpha**

An open space to unpack life's big questions together in a friendly relaxed atmosphere with a meal.

10 weekly sessions starting

**Thursday 15th January, 7.00pm**

To sign up or find out more, email

Jonathan: [vicar@stpeterwoking.org](mailto:vicar@stpeterwoking.org)

[www.stpeterwoking.org/alpha](http://www.stpeterwoking.org/alpha)





Westfield Community Fridge is open at St Mark's every Wednesday 1:30–3pm, though closed on New

**Years Eve, and open Mon 29<sup>th</sup> December instead.**

Community fridges distribute good quality food that shops can't sell, so they help reduce food waste whilst also giving everyone a bit of a helping hand. Everyone is welcome so come along and try it out. [stpeterwoking.org/fridge](http://stpeterwoking.org/fridge)

You may have noticed the new Community Garden space at St Mark's over this last year. Follow progress and find out how to join in:



[stpeterwoking.org/communitygarden](http://stpeterwoking.org/communitygarden)

# Weekly at St Mark's

Sunday  
11am-12pm

**Morning Worship**



For parents and carers, term-time

Tuesday  
10-11:30am

Tuesday  
3:15-4pm

**Refresh Café**

Connecting with the community

After school drinks, games & fun for parents  
and primary-aged children, term-time

**Refresh Café**

Connecting with the community

**EXTRA**

Games, toast and chats for 11-16 year olds

Tuesday  
4-4:45pm

Wednesday  
11am-12:30pm

*Community*  
**GARDEN**

at St Mark's

Gardening group open to everyone

*Westfield*  
**COMMUNITY  
FRIDGE**

A simple solution to wasting less through the  
sharing of good quality food

Wednesday  
1:30-3pm

Find out more: 01483 755852  
[stpeterwoking.org](http://stpeterwoking.org)  
[facebook.com/stmarkswestfield](https://facebook.com/stmarkswestfield)



Parish of  
**St Peter Woking**  
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