

The Anglican Parish of

# St MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS



**A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols**  
**7.00pm**  
21 December 2025

## A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

**Celebrant:** Fr Jordan Greatbatch      **Organ:** Paul Ellis, Janet Gibbs  
**Conductor:** Derek Ward  
**Organ Prelude:** Meditation on 'Divinum mysterium' John Watkinson  
**Introit Hymn:** 34 (*VV 1 and 2 Choir only*)

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.

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.

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.

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.

And through all his wondrous childhood  
He would honour and obey,  
Love, and watch the lowly maiden,  
In whose gentle arms he lay;  
Christian children all must be  
Mild, obedient, good as he.

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.

### The Bidding Prayer:

Dear People of God:

In this Christmas Season, let it be our duty and delight to hear once more the message of the angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger. Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God's loving purpose from the time of our rebellion against him until the glorious redemption brought to us by his holy Child Jesus, and let us make this place glad with our carols of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world, for peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the Church for which he died, and especially for his Church in our country and in this province of Canterbury and city of Christchurch. And because he particularly loves them, let us remember in his name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and unloved, the aged and little children, as well as all those who do not know and love the Lord Jesus Christ.

Finally, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and that whole multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in Jesus, we are one for evermore.  
And now, to sum up all these petitions, let us pray in the words which Christ himself has taught us, singing:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.**

**Collect:**

God of all hope and joy, open our hearts in welcome, that your Son Jesus Christ at his coming may find in us a dwelling prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**First Lesson:**                      Genesis 3: 8-18                      Senior Pupil St Michaels Church School  
**God's promise of future redemption.**

**Hymn:**                                      33

Of the Father's heart begotten,  
Ere the world from chaos rose,  
He is Alpha: from that fountain  
All that is and hath been flows;  
He is Omega, of all things  
Yet to come the mystic close,  
Evermore and evermore.

This is he, whom seer and sibyl  
Sang in ages long gone by;  
This is he of old revealed  
In the page of prophecy;  
Lo! he comes, the promised Saviour;  
Let the world his praises cry!  
Evermore and evermore.

O how blest that wondrous birthday,  
When the Maid the curse retrieved,  
Brought to birth mankind's salvation,  
By the Holy Ghost conceived;  
And the Babe, the world's Redeemer,  
In her loving arms received.  
Evermore and evermore.

Sing, ye heights of heaven, his praises;  
Angels and Archangels, sing!  
Wheresoe'er ye be, ye faithful,  
Let your joyous anthems ring,  
Every tongue his name confessing,  
Countless voices answering,  
Evermore and evermore.

**Second Lesson:**                      Genesis 22: 15-19                      Joshua Wilson Black  
**God's promise to Abraham.**

**Choir:**                                      Entrez-y tous en sureté                      Edmund Rubbra

**Third Lesson:**                      Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7                      Therese Aitchison  
**The prophecy of Christ's birth and kingdom.**

**Choir with Young Voices:** There shall at star (from Christus) Felix Mendelssohn  
**Soloists:** Margot Holcroft, Craig Knowles, Ben Glossop and Matthew Harris

**Fourth Lesson:** Micah 5: 2-5a Sue Shannons  
**The ruler of peace shall come from Bethlehem.**

**Hymn:** 21

A great and mighty wonder,  
A full and holy cure!  
The Virgin bears the Infant  
With virgin-honour pure.  
Repeat the hymn again!  
‘To God on high be glory,  
And peace on earth to men!’

While thus they sing your Monarch,  
Those bright angelic bands,  
Rejoice, ye vales and mountains,  
Ye oceans clap your hands.  
Repeat the hymn again!  
‘To God on high be glory,  
And peace on earth to men!’

The Word becomes incarnate  
And yet remains on high!  
And Cherubim sing anthems  
To shepherds from the sky.  
Repeat the hymn again!  
‘To God on high be glory,  
And peace on earth to men!’

Since all he comes to ransom,  
By all be he adored,  
The Infant born in Bethl’em,  
The Saviour and the Lord.  
Repeat the hymn again!  
‘To God on high be glory,  
And peace on earth to men!’

And idol forms shall perish,  
And error shall decay,  
And Christ shall wield his sceptre,  
Our Lord and God for ay.  
Repeat the hymn again!  
‘To God on high be glory,  
And peace on earth to men!’

**Fifth Lesson:** Luke 1: 26-35, 38 Jane Ellis  
**The Angel Gabriel greets the Virgin Mary.**

**Choir:** Magnificat from the short service Orlando Gibbons

**Sixth Lesson:** Luke 2: 1-7 Thomas Visakan  
**The Birth of Jesus.**

**Young Voices:** Mater ora filium Charles Wood

**Seventh Lesson:**

Luke 2: 8-16

Johnann Williams

**The shepherds go to the manger.****Hymn:**

40

What child is this, who, laid to rest  
On Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,  
While shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King,  
Whom shepherds worship and angels sing:  
Haste, haste to bring him praise  
The Babe, the son of Mary.

Why lies he in such mean estate,  
Where ox and ass are feeding?  
Come, have no fear, God's son is here,  
His love all loves exceeding:  
Nails, spear, shall pierce him through,  
The cross be borne for me, for you:  
Hail, hail the Saviour comes,  
The Babe, the son of Mary.

So bring him incense, gold and myrrh,  
All tongues and peoples own him,  
The King of kings salvation brings,  
Let every heart enthrone him:  
Raise, raise your song on high  
While Mary sings a lullaby,  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,  
The Babe, the son of Mary.

**Choir:**

Three Kings

Peter Cornelius

**Soloist:**

Matthew Harris

arr. Ivor Atkins

**Eighth Lesson:**

Matthew 2: 1-11

Fr Peter Williams

**The wise men are led by a star to Jesus.****Hymn:**

36

The first Nowell the angel did say  
Was to certain poor shepherds  
in fields as they lay;  
In fields where they lay,  
keeping their sheep,  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep:  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
Born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star,  
Shining in the east,  
beyond them far:  
And to the earth it gave great light,  
And so it continued both day and night:  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
Born is the King of Israel.

And by the light of that same star,  
Three Wise Men came from country far;  
To seek for a king was their intent,  
And to follow the star  
wheresoever it went:  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
Born is the King of Israel.

Then let us all with one accord  
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord,  
That hath made heaven  
and earth of naught,  
And with his blood mankind hath bought:  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
Born is the King of Israel.

*Remain Standing*

**Ninth Lesson:**

John 1: 1-14

Fr Robert Jamieson

**St John unfolds the great mystery of the incarnation**

*Sit following the reading*

**Responsory:**

Your salvation is near to those who fear you,  
that glory may dwell in our land.

Your salvation is near to those who fear you,  
that glory may dwell in our land.

Mercy and truth have met together;  
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

That glory may dwell in our land.

Glory to God: Source of all being, Eternal Word, and Holy Spirit:

Your salvation is near to those who fear you,  
that glory may dwell in our land.

**Collect:**

God, you make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of your only Son, Jesus Christ. Grant that as we joyfully receive him for our redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold him, when he shall come to be our judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**Choir and Young Voices:** A Christmas blessing

Philp Stopford

**Blessing:**

May Jesus, who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with the delight of inward peace and goodwill.

And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, come upon you and remain with you for ever.

**Choir:**

Amen

Smith of Durham

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,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

See how the Shepherds,  
Summoned to his cradle,  
Leaving their flocks,  
draw nigh with lowly fear;  
We too will thither  
Bend our joyful footsteps:  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Lo! star-led chieftains,  
Magi, Christ adoring,  
Offer him incense, gold, and myrrh;  
We to the Christ Child  
Bring our heart's oblations:  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

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, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

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,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

**The Anglican Parish of  
St Michael and All Angels,  
Christchurch**

**Christmas Services**

**24 December—Christmas Eve**

4pm—Children's Crib Service

*A short service for children around the crib*

11pm—Christmas Carols

*Christmas carols sung by congregation and choir,*

*Immediately followed by*

11.30pm—Midnight Mass

*The first Mass of Christmas*

**25 December—Christmas Day**

8am—Low Mass

*A short Mass without musical accompaniment*

10am—High Mass

*A longer Mass with choir and organ and activities for children.*