

**The word becomes flesh** - John 1:1-14 read by *Revd Matthew Street*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God--children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

**Film** - *The Promise*

**Carol** (During which the collection will be taken)

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: <i>O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!</i>	very God, begotten, not created: <i>Chorus</i> 3 See how the shepherds summoned to his cradle, leaving their flocks, draw nigh to gaze; we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps: <i>Chorus</i> 4 Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, sing, all ye citizens of heaven above: 'Glory to God in the highest:' <i>Chorus</i>
2 God of God, Light of light, Lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb;	

**Blessing**

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you, scatter the darkness from before your path, and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, rest upon us and remain with us always. **Amen.**

**Please join us for mulled wine and mince pies**

**Note on the NINE LESSONS**

In 1880 E. W. Benson, then Bishop of Truro, drew up a Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, based on ancient sources, for use on Christmas Eve in the wooden shed which served as his cathedral. In 1918 this was adapted for use in the chapel of King's College, Cambridge by its Dean, Eric Milner-White, who also wrote the Bidding Prayer." (Wilcocks and Rutter, 1987, p. 384) The Bidding Prayer, the Lord's Prayer and Blessing used this evening are taken or adapted from the early versions of this service.



# The Parish of Wellow

**A Festival of Nine Carols and Readings by Candlelight  
Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2011 - 6.00pm**

**Carol**

1 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.	3 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.
2 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.	4 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.

**Bidding Prayer**

Beloved in Christ, be it this Advent eve our care and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels: in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and with the shepherds and the wise men adore the Child lying in his Mother's arms. Let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious Redemption brought us by this Holy Child; and in company with the whole Church let us make this Chapel glad with our carols of praise: But first let us pray for the needs of his whole world; for peace and goodwill over all the earth. And let us at this time remember in his name the poor and the helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed; the sick in body and in mind and them that mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; and all who know not the loving kindness of the Lord. Let us also remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which none can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh: and let us pray that we may be counted among that communion of saints, receiving grace to offer unto God reasonable service, living in unity and fellowship with all His people and giving reverence to all that He hath made. These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself hath taught us:

**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, forever and ever. Amen.**

**Carol**

1 O come, o come Emmanuel  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear.  
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

2 O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free  
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;

From depths of hell Thy people save,  
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave.  
*Chorus*

3 O come, Thou Key of David, come  
And open wide our heavenly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high,  
And close the path to misery. *Chorus*

**God declares his Judgement.** Genesis 3:8-15 read by *a Bell Ringer*

Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?" He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" The man said, "The woman you put here with me-- she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it." Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, "Cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

**Carol**

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*

**God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.** Genesis 22:15-18 read by *a member of the Wall Hanging Group*

The angel of the LORD called to Abraham from heaven a second time [16] and said, "I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the

Is born of David's line  
The Savior who is Christ the Lord  
And this shall be the sign  
And this shall be the sign."

"All glory be to

**Carol**

1 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.

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

**Travellers come from the east** - Matthew 2:9-11 read by *a Churchwarden*  
The star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh.

**Carol**

1 We three kings of Orient are,  
bearing gifts we traverse afar  
field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
following yonder star:  
*O star of wonder, star of night,  
star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding,  
guide us to thy perfect light.*

2 Born a king on Bethlehem plain,  
gold I bring, to crown him again,  
king for ever, ceasing never  
over us all to reign: *Chorus*

God on high  
And to the earth be peace;  
Goodwill henceforth  
From heaven to men  
Begin and never cease  
Begin and never cease!"

3 How silently, how silently,  
the wondrous gift is given!  
so God imparts to human hearts  
the blessings of his heaven.  
No ear may hear his coming;  
but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him, still  
the dear Christ enters in.

4 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.

3 Frankincense to offer have I,  
incense owns a deity nigh;  
prayer and praising, all men raising,  
worship him, God most high: *Chorus*

4 Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume  
breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,  
sealed in the stone-cold tomb: *Chorus*

5 Glorious now behold him arise,  
king and God, and sacrifice.  
Heaven sings: 'Alleluia';  
'Alleluia', the earth replies: *Chorus*

**God's purpose is explained to Joseph** - Matthew 1:18-25 - read by a member of the Flower arrangers team

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"--which means, "God with us." When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

**Carol**

1 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.  
2 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.  
3 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.

**The Shepherd's go the stable** - Luke 2:15-20 - read by a ground's helper

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.

**Carol** - Sung by the Wellow Choir

While shepherds watched  
Their flocks by night  
All seated on the ground  
The angel of the Lord came down  
And glory shone around  
And glory shone around  
"Fear not," he said,

For mighty dread  
Had seized their troubled minds  
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring  
To you and all mankind,  
To you and all mankind."  
"To you in David's  
Town this day

seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me."

**Hymn**

1 Hail to the Lord's Anointed,  
Great David's greater Son!  
Hail, in the time appointed,  
His reign on earth begun!  
He comes to break oppression,  
To set the captive free,  
To take away transgression,  
And rule in equity.  
2 He comes, with succour speedy,  
To those who suffer wrong;  
To help the poor and needy,  
And bid the weak be strong;  
To give them songs for sighing,  
Their darkness turn to light,  
Whose souls, condemned and dying,  
Were precious in his sight.  
3 He shall come down like showers  
Upon the fruitful earth;  
Love, joy, and hope, like flowers,  
Spring in his path to birth;

Before him, on the mountains,  
Shall peace the herald go;  
And righteousness, in fountains,  
From hill to valley flow.  
4 Kings shall fall down before him,  
And gold and incense bring;  
All nations shall adore him,  
His praise all people sing;  
To him shall prayer unceasing  
And daily vows ascend,  
His kingdom still increasing,  
A kingdom without end.  
5 O'er every foe victorious,  
He on his throne shall rest;  
From age to age more glorious,  
All-blessing and all-blest.  
The tide of time shall never  
His covenant remove;  
His name shall stand for ever,  
His changeless name of Love.

**Isaiah announces the coming King** - Isaiah 9:6 read by a member of St Julian's School

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

**Carol**

1 The holly and the ivy  
when they are both full grown,  
of all the trees that are in the wood,  
the holly bears the crown.  
*O the rising of the sun  
and the running of the deer,  
the playing of the merry organ,  
sweet singing in the choir.*  
2 The holly bears a berry,  
as red as any blood,

and Mary bore sweet Jesus  
to do poor sinners good. *Chorus*  
3 The holly bears a prickle  
as sharp as any thorn,  
and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ  
on Christmas Day in the morn. *Chorus*  
4 The holly and the ivy,  
when they are both full grown,  
of all the trees that are in the wood  
the holly bears the crown. *Chorus*

**The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.** Isaiah 11:1-9 - read by a member of the PCC

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD—and he will delight in the fear of the LORD. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked. Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist. The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. The infant will play near the hole of the cobra, and the young child put his hand into the viper's nest. They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

**Carol - Sung by the Wellow Choir**

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|---|--|
| 1. The angel Gabriel from heaven came<br>His wings as drifted snow his eyes as<br>flame<br>"All hail" said he "thou lowly maiden<br>Mary,<br>Most highly favored lady," Gloria! | 3. Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her<br>head<br>"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said,<br>"My soul shall laud and magnify his<br>holy name."<br>Most highly favored lady. Gloria!  |
| 2. "For know a blessed mother thou<br>shalt be,<br>All generations laud and honor thee,<br>Thy Son shall be Emanuel, by seers<br>foretold<br>Most highly favored lady," Gloria! | 4. Of her, Emanuel, the Christ was born<br>In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn<br>And Christian folk throughout the<br>world will ever say:<br>"Most highly favored lady," Gloria! |

**Hymn**

- 1 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!  
Unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice;  
tender to me the promise of his word;  
in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.
- 2 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his Name!  
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;  
his mercy sure, from age to age the same;  
his holy Name, the Lord, the Mighty One.

- 3 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!  
Powers and dominions lay their glory by.  
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,  
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.
- 4 Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!  
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.  
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord  
to children's children and for evermore!

**The Angel comes to Mary - Luke 1:26-31, 38 - read by a member of the Church Cleaning Rota**

In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you." Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favour with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.

**Carol**

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|---|---|
| 1 In the bleak mid-winter<br>frosty wind made moan,<br>earth stood hard as iron,<br>water like a stone;<br>snow had fallen, snow on snow,<br>snow on snow,<br>In the bleak mid-winter<br>long ago.                      | enough for him whom angels<br>fall down before,<br>the ox and ass and camel<br>which adore.   |
| 2 Our God, heaven cannot hold him<br>nor earth sustain;<br>heaven and earth shall flee away<br>when he comes to reign:<br>in the bleak mid-winter<br>a stable-place sufficed<br>the Lord God Almighty,<br>Jesus Christ. | 4 Angels and archangels<br>may have gathered there,<br>cherubim and seraphim<br>thronged the air,<br>but only his mother<br>in her maiden bliss<br>worshipped the Belovèd<br>with a kiss. |
| 3 Enough for him whom cherubim<br>worship night and day,<br>a breastful of milk<br>and a mangerful of hay;  | 5 What can I give him,<br>poor as I am?<br>if I were a shepherd<br>I would bring a lamb,<br>if I were a wise man<br>I would do my part;<br>yet what I can I give him,<br>give my heart.   |