

Christmas Services

Further information from the Parish Office: 01228 810616

Christmas Eve
11.30pm Holy Communion **Preacher**
Eddie Scrase-Field

Christmas Day
10.30am All Age Christmas Celebration Wendy Downey

Cummersdale
9.00am Holy Communion Eddie Scrase-Field

Sunday December 27th 2009

10.30am Family Worship John Libby
6.30pm Evening Worship Paul McVittie

Cummersdale
10.30am Morning Worship Paul McVittie

SAINT JAMES CHURCH CARLISLE



6.30pm Sunday, 20th December, 2009

CAROLS by CANDLELIGHT

*(If you are new to St James,
please fill in one of the Welcome Cards on the pews)*

*If you have a mobile telephone,
please ensure that it is turned off. Thank you.*

Welcome

Bidding Prayer

followed by 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 yours is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory,
now and forever. Amen.**

**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;

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above,
glory to God, in the highest;

JUST LOOKING!

Just Looking is just what it says: it's an opportunity to take a closer look at the Christian faith, but with no pressure to do anything more than just look. Please join us for a meal, a talk, a time for discussion, and a chance to make new friends.



**Next course starts, Thursday 14 January 7:30pm
(and then for each Thursday evening for four weeks)
in the Parish Centre.**

Information

Free Will Offering: Envelopes are now ready for collection from pigeon holes at the back of church

Please Pray For:

Those who are ill or in hospital at this time, especially Fiona Hurley, Peggy Fluck, Glenda Davidson, Maureen Richardson, Rosie Thwaites and Nora Klein.

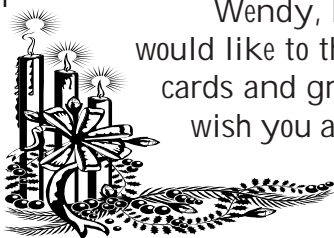
Flowers on the table today: H. Hardcastle

With special thanks to all those who helped with the readings for the Carol Service:

Debenhams Staff and especially Esther Asbury;
Houghton Hall Garden Centre management and Staff Manager of the Market Hall Helen Wylie;
The Lanes Shopping Centre particularly Janet Murray;
The Staff and Head Teacher Graham Frost at Robert Ferguson School; plus all the readers and production crew.

Happy Christmas!

John, Daphne and family,
Eddie, Hannah and Samuel,
Wendy, Ben and Kate
would like to thank everyone for their
cards and greetings, and together
wish you all a joyful Christmas
anda peaceful
New Year.



Please feel free to take this service sheet away with you

Light of the world,

You stepped down into darkness,
Opened my eyes, let me see
Beauty that made this heart adore You,
Hope of a life spent with You.

*So here I am to worship,
Here I am to bow down,
Here I am to say that You're my God;
And You're altogether lovely,
Altogether worthy,
Altogether wonderful to me.*

King of all days,
Oh so highly exalted,
Glorious in heaven above.
Humbly You came
To the earth You created,
All for love's sake became poor.

So here I am . . .

And I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross. *(Repeat)*

So here I am . . .

Tim Hughes © 2000 Kingsway's Thankyou Music

Confession

Christ the light of the world has come to dispel the
darkness of our hearts. In His light let us examine
ourselves and confess our sins.

Silence is kept

Lord of grace and truth, we confess our unworthiness
to stand in your presence as your children.

We have sinned:

forgive us and heal us.

The Virgin Mary accepted your call to be the mother of
Jesus. Forgive our disobedience to your will.

We have sinned:

forgive us and heal us.

Your Son our Saviour was born in poverty in a manger.
Forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.

We have sinned:

forgive us and heal us.

The shepherds left their flocks to go to Bethlehem.
Forgive our self-interest and lack of vision.

We have sinned:

forgive us and heal us.

The wise men followed the star to find Jesus the King.
Forgive our reluctance to seek you.

We have sinned:

forgive us and heal us.

For we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

Assurance

May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw us to
himself, and cleanse us from all our sins, that we may
behold the glory of his Son, the Word made flesh.

Amen.

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 Immanuel.

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.

**Coffee and mince pies will be served
in Church after the service.**

There in the garden of tears
my heavy load He chose to bear;
His heart with sorrow was torn,
'Yet not my will but yours,' He said.

This is our God...

Come see His hands and His feet,
the scars that speak of sacrifice,
hands that flung stars into space
to cruel nails surrendered.

This is our God...

So let us learn how to serve
and in our lives enthrone Him,
each other's needs to prefer,
for it is Christ we're serving.

This is our God...

Graham Kendrick (c) 1983 Make Way Music/Thankyou Music

Sermon

What Does Christmas Start With?

King of Kings, majesty,
God of heaven living in me.
Gentle Saviour, closest Friend,
Strong Deliverer, Beginning and End:
All within me falls at Your throne.

*Your majesty, I can but bow;
I lay my all before You now.
In royal robes I don't deserve,
I live to serve Your majesty.*

Earth and heaven worship You,
Love eternal, faithful and true,
Who bought the nations, ransomed souls,
Brought this sinner near to Your throne:
All within me cries out in praise.

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Closing Prayer and Blessing

May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the obedience of Joseph and Mary, and the peace of the Christ child be ours this Christmas. This peace of God which passes all understanding, keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among us and remain with us always. **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!'*

Continued...

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 mean and lowly
lived on earth our Saviour holy.

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.

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.

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;
where like stars his children crowned
all in white shall wait around.

First Reading

**Isaiah Chapter 9 verses 2, 6 and 7
The prophecy of the Messiah's birth**

Awake, awake, O Zion,
And clothe yourself with strength,
Shake off your dust
And fix your eyes on Him.
For you have been redeemed by
The precious blood of Jesus,
And now you sit enthroned with Him.

*Our God reigns, He is King of all the earth.
Our God reigns, and He's seated on the throne.
Lift your voice, and sing a song of praise.
Our God reigns; the awesome Lord most high.*

How beautiful the feet are
Of those who bring good news,
For they proclaim the peace that comes from God.
Rise up, you holy nation,
Proclaim the great salvation,
And say to Zion 'Your God reigns.'

Emmanuel, Emmanuel,
Our God is with us now.

Continued

The watchmen lift their voices,
And raise a shout of joy,
For He will come again.
Then all eyes will see the
Salvation of our God,
For He has redeemed Jerusalem.

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Second Reading
Luke Chapter 1 verses 26-38
The Annunciation to Mary

Thou who wast rich beyond all splendour
All for love's sake becamest poor;
Thrones for a manger didst surrender,
Sapphire-paved courts for stable floor.
Thou who wast rich beyond all splendour,
All for love's sake becamest poor.

Thou who art God beyond all praising,
All for love's sake becamest man;
Stooping so low, but sinners raising
Heavenwards by Thine eternal plan.
Thou who art God beyond all praising,
All for love's sake becamest man.

Thou who art love beyond all telling
Saviour and King, we worship Thee,
Emmanuel, within us dwelling,
Make us what Thou wouldst have us be.
Thou who art love, beyond all telling,
Saviour and King, we worship Thee

Third Reading
Luke Chapter 2 verses 1-7
The birth of Jesus

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 to-night.

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.

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.

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 Immanuel!

Fourth Reading
Luke Chapter 2 verses 8-16
The shepherds go to the manger

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 field abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing,
yonder shines the infant light:

Sages, leave your contemplations;
brighter visions beam afar:
seek the great desire of nations;
ye have seen his natal star:

Saints before the altar bending,
watching long in hope and fear,
suddenly the Lord, descending,
in his temple shall appear:

Fifth Reading
Matthew Chapter 2 verses 1-11
Wise men are led by the star to Jesus

(Please remain seated)

Over the skies of Bethlehem appeared a star
While angels sang to lowly shepherds
Three wise men seeking truth travelled from afar
Hoping to find the child from heaven
Falling on their knees
They bowed before the humble Prince of Peace

*I bring an offering of worship to my King
No one on earth deserves the praises that I sing
Jesus may You receive the honour that You're due
O Lord I bring an offering to You
I bring an offering to You*

The sun cannot compare to the glory of Your love
There is no shadow in Your Presence
No mortal man would dare to stand before Your throne
Before the Holy One of heaven
It's only by Your Blood and it's only through you mercy
Lord I come

- Paul Baloche

Sixth Reading
John Chapter 1 verses 1-14
The Incarnation of the Word of God

From heaven you came, helpless babe,
entered our world, Your glory veiled,
not to be served but to serve,
and give Your life that we might live.

*This is our God, the Servant King,
He calls us now to follow Him,
to bring our lives as a daily offering
of worship to the Servant King.*

Continued...