

Christmas Services

Further information from the Parish Office: 01228 810616

Christmas Eve 11.00pm	Holy Communion	Preacher John Libby
Christmas Day 10.30am	All Age Christmas Celebration	Wendy Downey
Cummersdale 9.00am	Holy Communion	Wendy Downey

Please note there will be no morning service on **New Year's Day** but please join us for our 6.30pm evening service.

Notices

Please join us to **pray for Cornerstone** this Wednesday, the 21st December, in the Parish Centre at 7.30pm.

Carol Singing with Churches Together in Carlisle Thursday 22 December 6.30 - 7.15pm outside Debenhams

The **WAGs Cookbook** is here & ready to buy! £5 each, all proceeds to Cornerstone. Available to purchase today, or from the Parish Office or from Gemma/Anna.

Congratulations to Ed and Rachel Mitchell on the safe arrival of Ewan on the 3rd of December.

Advance Dates for Your Diaries

Sunday 15th January Parish Lunch - details to follow.

Cornerstone Fundraising **Ceilidh** with the Woodside Warblers. **Saturday 21st January 7.30pm** in the Parish Centre. Tickets (available from Parish Office) cost £8 each including a hot supper.

SAINT JAMES CHURCH CARLISLE



6.30pm Sunday, 18th December, 2011

CAROLS by CANDLELIGHT

(If you are new to St James, and would like to be kept in touch, 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.

With thanks to our Leader this evening, Joan Yarker (Gran for the 9th time on 26th Nov) and to those who will deliver our Readings: Esther Blake (mum-to-be late March 2012) Rachel Mitchell (mum for the 2nd time, 3rd Dec) Anna Vincent (mum for the 2nd time, 27th Oct) Laura Webster (mum for the 2nd time, 25th Oct) Pat Cottingham (midwife, mother of four) and Rosie Thwaites (midwife and Gran for the 1st time 5th Dec). Preacher and token bloke, John Libby, Vicar.

Welcome

Opening Sentence:

In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again."

John Chapter 3 verse 3

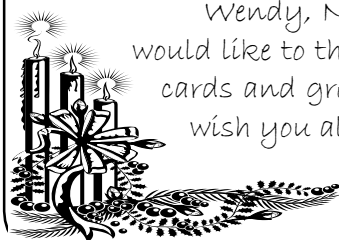
Bidding Prayer

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.**

Happy Christmas!

*John, Daphne and family,
Wendy, Nick 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 Pray For:

Those who are ill or in hospital at this time, especially Fiona Hurley, Peggy Fluck, Glenda Davidson, Ann Bailey, Joyce Mason, Rita Norman, Sam Harris, Barbara Thomson, Caroline Browne and Olive Sanderson.

Please feel free to take this service sheet away with you

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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:

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.**

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.

Continued....

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

Silent night, Holy night
Shepherds quake at the sight
Glories stream from Heaven afar
Heavenly hosts sing Hallelujah
Christ, the Saviour is born
Christ, the Saviour is born

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

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!'*

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.**

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.*

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.

Come see His hands and His feet,
The scars that speak of sacrifice;
Hands that flung stars into space
To cruel nails surrendered.

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.

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John Chapter 3 verses 1-16

Adults, Born Again?

Congregation remain seated

Christmas Offering

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 honor 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 Your mercy
Lord I come

Paul Baloche 2002 Integrity's Hosanna! Music

Sermon
Nativity 2011

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.

Isaiah Chapter 9 verses 2, 6 and 7

Birth Foretold

O Come, O come Immanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.

*Rejoice, rejoice! Immanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O come, O come, Thou Lord of might
Who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times didst give the law
In cloud, and majesty, and awe.

O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell Thy people save
And give them victory o'er the grave.

O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.

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.

Luke Chapter 1 verses 26-38

Birth Announced

Infant holy, Infant lowly,
For His bed a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing, little knowing,
Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Swift are winging angels singing,
Nowells ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the babe is Lord of all;
Christ the babe is Lord of all.

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping
Vigil till the morning new;
Saw the glory, heard the story,
Tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,
Praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the babe was born for you!
Christ the babe was born for you!

Luke Chapter 2 verses 1-7

Birth Takes Place

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!

Luke Chapter 2 verses 8-16

The Saviour Is Born

From the Squalor of a Borrowed Stable,
By the Spirit and a virgin's faith;
To the anguish and the shame of scandal
Came the Saviour of the human race!
But the skies were filled with the praise of heaven,
Shepherds listen as the angels tell
Of the Gift of God come down to man
At the dawning of Immanuel.

Continued....

King of heaven now the Friend of sinners,
Humble servant in the Father's hands,
Filled with power and the Holy Spirit,
Filled with mercy for the broken man.
Yes, He walked my road and He felt my pain,
Joys and sorrows that I know so well;
Yet His righteous steps give me hope again -
I will follow my Immanuel!

Through the kisses of a friend's betrayal,
He was lifted on a cruel cross;
He was punished for a world's transgressions,
He was suffering to save the lost.
He fights for breath, He fights for me,
Loosing sinners from the claims of hell;
And with a shout our souls are free -
Death defeated by Immanuel!

Now He's standing in the place of honour,
Crowned with glory on the highest throne,
Interceding for His own beloved
Till His Father calls to bring them home!
Then the skies will part as the trumpet sounds
Hope of heaven or the fear of hell;
But the Bride will run to her Lover's arms,
Giving glory to Immanuel!

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Matthew Chapter 2 verses 1-11

Where Is The One Born.....?

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.

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 wherever it went.

This star drew nigh to the north-west;
Over Bethlehem it took its rest,
And there it did both stop and stay
Right over the place where Jesus lay.

Then entered in those wise men three
Full reverently upon their knee,
And offered there in His presence
Their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.

Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
That hath made heaven and earth of nought,
And with His blood mankind hath bought.

John Chapter 1 verses 1-14

Children, Born Of God?