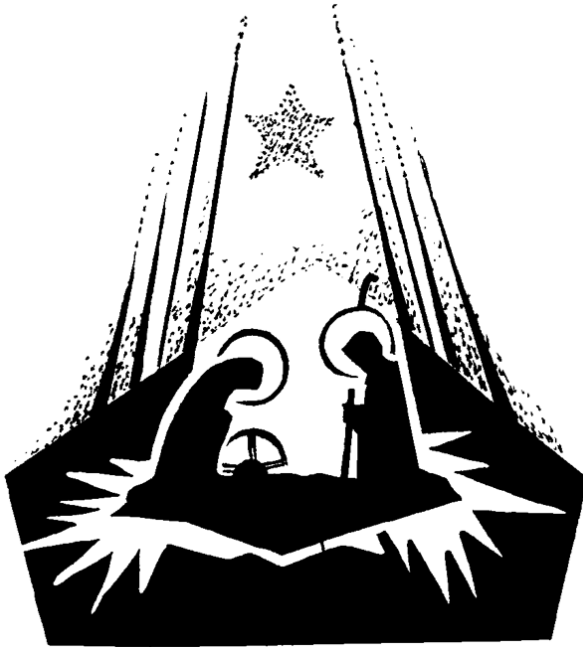


PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARY, PULBOROUGH



**11.00pm Midnight Eucharist
celebrating the
Birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ.**

24th December, 2023

*We are very grateful that the Service leaflets this
night have been sponsored.*

**'Remembering a much loved Priest, husband,
father and friend'.**

Reverend Stephen M. Chaloner

Please take this booklet home with you after the Service

Welcome to Midnight Mass

Celebrant & Preacher: Fr Paul

Organist: Peter Allwood

Setting: Thorne

The Reading: Toni Hayes

Intercessions: Tony Holloway

For your information, we administer communion in both kinds. Receiving consecrated wine directly from the chalice is offered for those who feel comfortable to do this. Please do not dip the consecrated wafer into the chalice.

Please wait to be directed to communion.

*If you feel able to make a donation **during the offertory hymn** and you are a UK taxpayer, please use and complete the details on the Gift Aid white envelope you will find in your service leaflet. Thank you. We also have **contactless facilities** available by the organ at the back of the church.*

In the event of a fire or emergency in the Church, the exits available are: the West Door, the North Door, the South Door in the Chancel and the door through the Vestry. Please leave the building by an exit nearest to you.

*Opening organ music: J S Bach: Sheep may safely graze
(from the Birthday Cantata)*

Elgar: Chanson de Nuit

Please stand when the bell is rung



The Entrance Hymn NEH 32 Phillips Brooks (1835-1893)

- 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 to-night.
- 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.
- 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.

The Gathering

✠ In the name of the Father, and
of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus
Christ be with you.
and also with you.

*Fr. Paul introduces the night's celebration and invites people
to make an act of penitence*

The Prayers of Penitence

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.

God our Father,
you sent your Son full of grace and truth:
forgive our failure to receive him.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Jesus our Saviour,
you were born in poverty and laid in a manger:
forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

Spirit of love,
your servant Mary responded joyfully to your call:
forgive the hardness of our hearts.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

May Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins and bring
us to everlasting life. **Amen**

The Thorne Gloria

Glory to God, Glory to God, glory to God in the Highest.

**Glory to God in the Highest, and
peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, Heav'nly King,
Almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

Glory to God, Glory to God, glory to God in the Highest.

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away
the sin of the world; have mercy on us;
You are seated at the right hand of the
Father: receive our prayer.**

Glory to God, Glory to God, glory to God, in the Highest.

**For you alone are the Holy one,
You alone are the Lord, You alone are the most high,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the
Glory of God the Father.**

Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God in the Highest

The Collect for the Day

Eternal God,
who made this most holy night
to shine with the brightness of your one true light:
bring us, who have known the revelation of that light on earth, to see
the radiance of your heavenly glory;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Please sit

The First Reading: Titus 2. 11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Please stand

The Gradual Hymn: NEH 42 Nahum Tate 1652-1715

- 1 While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down,
and glory shone around.**
- 2 'Fear not,' said he (for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind);
'glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and all mankind.**
- 3 'To you in David's town this day
is born of David's line
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;
and this shall be the sign:**

- 4 'The heavenly babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all meanly wrapped in swathing bands,
and in a manger laid.'
- 5 Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith
appeared a shining throng
of angels praising God, who thus
addressed their joyful song;
- 6 'All glory be to God on high,
and to the earth be peace;
good will henceforth from heaven to men
begin and never cease.'

The Gospel Reading: Luke 2. 1-14

The Lord be with you
And also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke
Glory to you, O Lord

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.'

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

'Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

After the Gospel reading:-

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please sit

The Homily

Please stand

The Creed

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came
down from heaven, was incarnate from
the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the
Scriptures; he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is
worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of
sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

The Prayers of Intercession

Please kneel or sit

In peace let us pray to the Lord.
Father, in this holy night your Son our Saviour
was born in human flesh.
Renew your Church as the Body of Christ.
Holy God
hear our prayer.

In this holy night there was no room for your Son in the inn.
Protect with your love those who have no home
and all who live in poverty.
Holy God
hear our prayer.

In this holy night Mary, in the pain of labour,
brought your Son to birth.
Hold in your hand all who are in pain or distress.
Holy God
hear our prayer.

In this holy night your Christ came as a light shining in the
darkness.
Bring comfort to all who suffer in the sadness of our world.
Holy God
hear our prayer.

In this holy night the angels sang, 'Peace to God's people on
earth.'
Strengthen those who work for peace and justice
in all the world.
Holy God
hear our prayer.

In this holy night shepherds in the field heard good tidings of joy.
Give us grace to preach the gospel of Christ's redemption.
Holy God
hear our prayer.

In this holy night strangers found the Holy Family,
and saw the baby lying in the manger.
Bless our homes and all whom we love.
Holy God
hear our prayer.

In this holy night heaven is come down to earth,
and earth is raised to heaven.
Hold in your hand all those who have passed through death in the
hope of your coming kingdom.
Holy God
hear our prayer.

In this holy night Christians the world over celebrate Christ's birth.
Open our hearts that he may be born in us today.
Holy God
hear our prayer.

Fr Paul concludes...

Father,
in this holy night angels and shepherds worshipped at
the manger throne.
Receive the worship we offer in fellowship with Mary,
Joseph and the saints
through him who is your Word made flesh,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Those who are in need of continued prayer:

*Peter Johnston, Helen and Peter Leeke, Ben, Rachel Webbe,
Elizabeth Yates, Darren Lloyd, Liz Cargill, Trevor Higton, James
McDonagh, Colin Belsham, Gill Williamson, Bill Bewley and
Bill Caldwell*

Pray to rest in peace: Richard Szydlo

Anniversary of death: Elaine Crossley, Margaret Holloway, Carmel
Williams, Ronald Symmonds, Jack Ferrier, David Williams

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

Please stand

The Peace

Fr. Paul introduces the Peace

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given,
And his name shall be called the Prince of Peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Let us offer each other the sign of peace

**The Offertory Hymn: NEH 29
Edmund Hamilton Sears (1810-1876)**

(During this hymn a collection will be taken in aid of the running of St Mary's Church and Churchyard) Thank you for your support

- 1 **It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
'Peace on the earth, good - will to men
from heaven's all-gracious King!'
The world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.**

- 2 **Still through the cloven skies they come,
with peaceful wings unfurled;
and still their heavenly music floats
o'er all the weary world:
above its sad and lowly plains
they bend on hovering wing;
and ever o'er its Babel-sounds
the blessed angels sing.**

3 Yet with the woes of sin and strife
the world has suffered long;
beneath the angel-strain have rolled
two thousand years of wrong;
and man, at war with man, hears not
the love-song which they bring;
O hush the noise, ye men of strife,
And hear the angels sing!

4 For lo, the days are hastening on,
by prophet bards foretold,
when with the ever-circling years,
comes round the age of gold:
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendours fling,
and all the world give back the song
which now the angels sing.

Pray dear brothers and sisters that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of his name, for our good, and the good of all his holy church.

Prayer over the Gifts

Lord, let praise and thanksgiving be the pure offering of this day's feast, and as your eternal Word takes up our human nature, so by a holy exchange may we be taken up into the divine life of Christ, who is alive, now and forever. **Amen.**



The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Lift up your hearts
We lift them to the Lord

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God
It is right to give thanks and praise

Fr. Paul continues with the prayer

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Fr. Paul continues until the following is used:

Great is the mystery of faith,
**Christ has died
Christ is risen
Christ will come again.**

*Fr. Paul continues and leads into the conclusion of the prayer to
which all say: **Amen***

Please kneel or sit

On this most Holy Night we remember and pray especially for our sisters and brothers in Ukraine and The Holy Land.

The Lord's Prayer

**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,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

We break the bread of life,
and that life is the light of the world.
**God here among us,
light in the midst of us,
bring us to light and life.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.**

The Giving of Communion

Fr Paul issues the invitation to communion in these or very similar words:

Jesus is the Lamb of God
who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.
**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

Communion Hymn: O&N 597

***Stille nacht! Heilige Nacht!* Joseph Mohr (1792-1848)
translated John Freeman Young (1820-1885)**

- 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 Prayer after Communion

God our Father,
in this night you have made known to us again
the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ:
confirm our faith and fix our eyes on him
until the day dawns
and Christ the Morning Star rises in our hearts.
To him be glory both now and for ever. **Amen**

The following prayer is then said by all:

**Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son
Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and
bodies to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen**

Please stand

The Blessing of the Christmas Crib now takes place

The Lord be with you.
and also with you.

The Blessing

The Dismissal

Go in the peace of Christ
Thanks be to God.

The Recessional Hymn: NEH 30
Adeste fideles – Latin 18th Century

Tr. Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880,) and others

- 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:
*O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*
- 2 God of God,
Light of light,
Lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
very God,
begotten, not created: *Chorus*
- 3 See how the shepherds
summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;
we too will thither
bend our joyful footsteps: *Chorus*
- 4 Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above:
'Glory to God in the highest:' *Chorus*
- 5 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given:
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing: *Chorus*

*Final Organ Voluntary: Widor: Toccata
(from Organ Symphony no. 5)*



From Fr Paul.....

Fr Paul would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their seasonal greetings and cards. It is much appreciated.





Prayer of Saint Richard of Chichester

Thanks be to thee, my Lord Jesus Christ,
for all the benefits thou hast given me,
for all the pains and insults thou hast borne for me.
O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother,
may I know thee more clearly,
love thee more dearly,
and follow thee more nearly, day by day.
Amen.